

EC battle opens on Labour conference

Within the Government over British of the EEC will be presented in at the Labour Party conference on the Prime Minister is to open in last night offered a dress rehearsal of speeches by three Cabinet. Mr Benn, Secretary for Industry; Mrs Secretary for Prices and Consumer and Mr Shore, Secretary for Trade.

Conflicting speeches Cabinet ministers

Field started, let alone being completed. Yet they are bound by resolutions passed at a different time and in different circumstances. Some votes will not be cast at all, because the constituency party has decided not to send a delegate. Mr Benn began by saying that it was now clear that the whole campaign for British withdrawal had to be led and organized by the British Labour movement. The special party conference must be the start of that campaign, with a huge vote for British democracy and self government. The EEC posed three major threats to the people. They were:

A direct threat to living standards by forcing up the price of food and preventing us from buying it where it is cheapest in the market of the world; a threat to jobs because it takes away our power to pursue policies that will protect them and create them when and where we need them as part of our industrial recovery; a threat to Parliament because it takes away our vote as a way of making laws we need to protect us from the forces of money and power.

Mrs Williams, on the other hand, said she did not believe the Labour movement should be so frightened of the Community. A total of 200 turned out for the Caxton Hall rally. Mr Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, who was on the same platform as Mr Benn, said that those who had attempted to go against the EEC as the work of a small group of left-wingers had wholly misunderstood the nature and extent of the opposition. Mr Benn argued that: "Self-government is better than over-government; home rule is better than external rule; elected government is better than unelected government; even if the despotism claim to be as benevolent as those who now run the Brussels Commission."

Unions' support

The general council of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, the third largest in Britain, voted last night to stay in the EEC. The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers delegation, at the Labour Party conference today also decided last night to support the renegotiated terms.

Man to reprimand steel chief over controversial remarks on job cuts

German and did not accept that a publicly-owned industry could run its affairs as if they were some private concern of the board. "I am arranging for the chairman to come and see me and I shall have with me your resolution," he told the committee.

Sir Monty outlined the corporation's plans to cut at least 20,000 jobs from the labour force of 220,000, and suggested that an ideal number of workers would be 50,000. Delegates at the AUEW conference in Blackpool stopped short of asking for Sir Monty's resignation, but criticized him and other directors of the corporation for their anti-nationalization views. Mr James Reid, of Clydeside, said the delegates were not modern Luddites, but they refused to accept economic

Interpol is alerted after £1.25m bank raid

By Clive Borrell Scotland Yard yesterday asked Interpol to watch for a gang who stole £145,000 and \$250,000 (about £104,000) in cash and jewelry valued at nearly £1m from a bank in London on Thursday night. Police believe that the six-man gang which broke into the Bank of America in Davies Street, Mayfair, will spend part of the sterling they stole to help the dollars and jewelry to the Continent for disposal. Detectives are sure that the thieves, who wore balaclava masks, had been watching the bank for at least two weeks and had intimate knowledge of the burglar alarm system, which they snipped through with wire cutters.

Neither the police nor the bank know exactly how much was taken during the two-hour raid as 89 of the bank's 600 deposit boxes were broken open and rifled. Many of the deposit boxes are let to clients who are abroad.

The contents of the deposit boxes may remain unknown to detectives for several weeks. The confidentiality about such boxes means that not even the bank is told of their contents when they are hired by clients. Early indications yesterday were that several of the boxes contained large quantities of jewelry and precious metals.

Mrs Farida Hall, from India, said that a large box was broken into and gems worth £200,000 were stolen.

"I have got no insurance because I thought, coming from another country, that it would be safe here. Everything I have got was in there. My whole life was in that box," Mrs Hall said. She lost nine rings, two brooches, two pendants and five pairs of earrings, she said. One item was worth £46,000, she added.

Coin collectors called at the bank yesterday to see whether their deposits were safe. One American said that he did not know whether coins worth "more than six figures" had been taken.

The branch of the bank is in the centre of the Mayfair area, where many wealthy American tourists stay in some of London's most luxurious hotels. The gang made one mistake. They failed to notice that three of the deposit boxes were open and they were in the computer section for an hour after they broke in. It is believed with a duplicate key.

The gang, armed with pistols, roughly handled the staff, gagging them with adhesive tape and tying their arms and legs with electric flex. Some of the gang spoke and their accents may help police to identify them. Mr Bruce Mitchell, vice-president and manager of the bank's City branch and the senior Bank of America official in London at present, said yesterday: "I would classify any loss as too much, and even £100,000 I would consider a loss we could not afford to have" (The Press Association reports).

Det. Chief Inspector John Peal, one of the detectives leading the investigation, said: "This was certainly not a matter of luck. It was a well planned, professional job. We are up against a good team of professional thieves."

Terrorist demand had to be rejected, Herr Schmidt says

From Dan van der Vat Bonn, April 25

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, today described last night's terrorist atrocity at the West German Embassy in Stockholm as "the gravest challenge our constitutional state has faced in its 26 years of history" in a special statement to the Bundestag. The Chancellor explained why Bonn this time decided to stand firm and reject the demand of the terrorists for the release of 26 suspected or convicted members of the Baader-Meinhof group of anarchists.

He told a crowded House: "Releasing these criminals, some of whom are still awaiting trial, would have meant an unimaginable test to breaking point for the security of us all and for the state." The decision to reject the demand had been most carefully weighed and had the unanimous support of all

parties in Parliament, of state heads as well as federal Government leaders and Opposition representatives. There was no comparison with the kidnapping two months ago of Herr Peter Lorenz, the West Berlin Opposition leader, when the Government had had to give in because nobody knew the identity of the kidnappers or where they had hidden Herr Lorenz. In Stockholm, the terrorists were known to be inside the embassy with the hostages. There was a chance to save the hostages and defeat the terrorists by negotiation or police methods. The Chancellor added: "Furthermore, the Stockholm terrorists had already murdered Herr von Mirbach (the military attaché) before they made their so-called demands known."

Other points of difference compared with the Lorenz kidnapping included the fact that

the crime took place abroad, which meant that two countries had to share the responsibility. Herr Schmidt expressed West Germany's warmest thanks to Mr Olaf Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, with whom he had spoken on the telephone eight times last night, and the Swedish police, especially those who were wounded in the gunfight with the terrorists. There was also the fact that the terrorists whose release was demanded were far more dangerous than the five freed in exchange for Herr Lorenz. The Government's refusal was centred on the principle that no state had the duty, above all else, to protect the life and freedom of its citizens. "We would have shirked this duty if 26 anarchist bandits had been released, of whom many are charged with multiple murder or attempted murder, in contrast with those five terror-

ists with whose release we paid for the life of Peter Lorenz." If released, the 26 would have tried to return to West Germany and commit further crimes. Herr Schmidt disclosed that 10 people suspected of violent crimes had been detained since the Lorenz kidnapping, in co-operation with foreign security agencies. Those detained were thought to have had leading roles in organizing and equipping terrorist groups, but the Chancellor gave no further details. Roger Cheate writes from Stockholm: The Swedish Government announced after a special Cabinet meeting tonight that it was deporting four of the five terrorists to West Germany. The fifth was too seriously wounded to be moved at present. West Germany had agreed to the deportations. Earlier today Herr Hans-

Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, arrived in Stockholm to thank Swedish officials for their successful operation. He met Mr Palme as police searched for accomplices of the five arrested terrorists. The hostages, most with light injuries, escaped from the blazing embassy after the terrorists threw explosives. They included Herr Dietrich Stöcker, the German Ambassador, who fled from shock and light injuries. He was visited in hospital by Herr Genscher. "Colonel Andreas von Solt, who was shot early in the terror action, Herr Felix Hallegard, the economic attaché, also died. His body was found in the smouldering rubble of the building. It is not yet known whether he died of burns or was shot. There is to be an autopsy on Monday."



The Prince of Wales, dressed in a fur-trimmed coat and a fur hat, watching an ice-house building contest at Frobisher Bay, northern Canada.

Carnival mood in Lisbon as Portuguese flock to first free polls in 50 years

From Nicholas Ashford Lisbon, April 25

Millions of Portuguese flocked to the polls today in an almost carnival atmosphere. Red carnations, symbol of last year's revolution which toppled the Caetano regime, were much in evidence and people seemed relaxed and happy as they waited, often for several hours, to cast their votes.

The Portuguese were clearly determined to participate as fully as possible in the country's first free elections for almost half a century. Queues started forming several hours before voting began at 8 am and by midday long lines of people could be seen in towns and villages all over the country. A very heavy turnout was reported, as high as 90 per cent in some areas and nowhere lower than 68 per cent.

Although the armed forces remained in a state of full alert, voting appeared to be taking place without serious incident. By late afternoon only two outbreaks of violence had been reported—both of them several hours before polling started. In Braga, north of Oporto, three people were injured when a group of leftist extremists attacked a polling station. And in Esposende, also near Oporto, 12 people were injured when

leftist demonstrators attacked and set fire to the local offices of the conservative Centre Democratic Social Party.

Dr Mario Soares, the Socialist leader, whose party is widely expected to win the highest number of votes, said today he was "pleased with the serenity and feeling of civic duty reigning over the elections". Certainly, the prophets of doom who forecast violence and chaos have been proved wrong this time.

Our Defence Correspondent writes: Field Marshal Sir Michael Carver, the British chief of defence staff, is to pay a surprise visit to Portugal on Monday. It will last three days and is understood to be semi-official. No details have been announced. But Sir Michael will call on President Francisco de Costa Gomes who is also the Portuguese chief of staff. The two men already know each other well.

Portugal's shift to the left has been watched with some concern by its NATO allies, who would like further reassurances about Portuguese foreign policy. The composition of the government in Lisbon after the elections is a matter of close interest at NATO headquarters.

Hanoi said to have given S Vietnam leader deadline for resignation

From Peter Hazelhurst Saigon, April 25

The level of fighting slackened in South Vietnam today as the political circles claimed that Hanoi had given President Tran Van Huong a deadline to step down and transfer power to a more acceptable head of state who could negotiate terms for peace or surrender with the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG).

The flurry of political activity behind the scenes, with the French acting as intermediaries, might explain why the communists have restrained the 15 North Vietnamese divisions round Saigon and have postponed an expected battle for the capital.

The length of the reported deadline is not known, but Western diplomats indicated that the communists might resume their offensive within the next few days unless President Huong steps down and hands over power to a member of the opposition or a leader who was not associated with the regime of his predecessor, General Nguyen Van Thieu.

Until now the PRG has described Mr Huong as "one of Thieu's puppets", and has refused adamantly to enter into peace negotiations with any South Vietnamese leader who was associated with the former President.

As time began to run out, Mr Huong, who is 71 and in poor health, summoned one of General Thieu's most vehement political opponents, General Duong Van (Big) Minh to the Independence Palace in Saigon for an urgent meeting today.

The meeting, the second in 24 hours, started speculation that President Huong might resign in the near future and General Minh would be appointed head of state if the communists agreed to meet him.

General Minh stood as a presidential candidate against General Thieu in elections in 1971, but withdrew from the contest, alleging that the poll process was rigged. In recent months he consistently demanded General Thieu's resignation and suggested that a new government should be empowered to negotiate a peace treaty with the communists.

It is understood that at their meeting yesterday General

Minh rejected President Huong's offer of the prime ministership with full power and insisted that he must be given nothing less than full presidential powers if he was expected to negotiate a settlement with the PRG.

It is understood that the French have been asked to put General Minh's name before the communists and establish whether the PRG is prepared to meet him or his miscreants for peace talks either in Geneva or Paris.

After meeting General Minh today, President Huong summoned the French Ambassador in Saigon to the palace.

Suggestions that Mr Tran Van Lam, the former Foreign Minister, who negotiated the Paris peace agreement in 1973, should replace President Huong as head of state apparently have been dropped because the PRG insisted that he was too closely associated with the former regime.

If General Minh is installed in office and meets the communists round the conference table he will in reality be negotiating a surrender. Two thirds of the country is already lost and military experts claim that the 15 North Vietnamese divisions round the capital could capture Saigon within 48 hours.

Continued on page 4, col 6

US 'ready to fly Saigon envoy to the North'

From Fred Emery Washington, April 25

President Ford is being told that his advisers do not yet know whether a political deal, conveying surrender, or a final battle is to be the fate of Saigon. But all the White House hopes seem now to lie with former General Duong Van Minh—a man who is in fact viewed with contempt, as inept.

Expectations that "Big" Minh, as the Americans called him, because of his unusual height, will emerge as the only person the communists will talk to are now widespread.

Apparently letting some cat out of the bag, a Republican Congressman announced that the United States was prepared to fly a Saigon representative to Hanoi for talks. Representative William Brockmeyer also

said he had learnt there was a "tacit" deal with Hanoi to let the evacuation airlift continue until at least Monday "without trouble".

Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, however, said this was "not an accurate report". Officials say that negotiations with the communists are entirely up to the South Vietnamese. Well-informed sources admit to their perplexity at the current lull in the fighting.

Although planning estimates here are admitted to change from hour to hour the present belief is that military action by the United States is not imminent. It is also thought that North Vietnam will remain extremely wary of provoking Mr Ford to use the new authority to use troops he is about to get from Congress.

Bus pay offer linked to rising prices

Leaders of 20,000 London busmen have accepted a pay offer that would give each bus worker 0.75 pence more pay every time the retail price index moved up a point. It would be implemented every three months.

London Transport made an improved offer yesterday after five days of negotiations that were close to deadlock. Union representatives will recommend acceptance of the offer at a busmen's delegate conference. The deal would also consolidate existing threshold payments of £8 in two stages, £6.50 this month and the rest from July.

The basic weekly rate for conductors would go up from £24.15 to £26.65 and for drivers from £35.30 to £41.80. One-man single and double-deck operators now being paid £40.30 and £41.30 respectively, would each get £48.50.

"Grouse from your own moor tastes so much nicer don't you think?"

"My luxury is Löwenbräu."

LÖWENBRÄU
MÜNCHEN

Löwenbräu. The world's most exclusive and expensive beer.

Ein play thy of electors

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partheid

ican Government is nation paving the way use which hotels bars. Five star hotels ell races but restric to hotels with lower Page 3

Pound falls in wake of US trade surplus

America had a record trade surplus last month of \$1,380m, largely because of another severe cutback in oil imports. These figures had a depressing effect on the pound, Page 17

Leyland chief leaves

Mr John Barber, deputy chairman and managing director of British Leyland, went on indefinite leave last night. He is expected formally to resign shortly. It seems likely that he will receive about £100,000 compensation. Page 17

Car imports record

Sales of cars imported into the United Kingdom reached a record of 40 per cent of the market in the first 20 days of April Page 17

Guilt ruling over lacing a drink

A man who surreptitiously laces a friend's drink, knowing that he is going to drive and be liable to conviction for driving with excess alcohol in his blood, is guilty of procuring the offence. The Court of Appeal gave this ruling yesterday. Law Report, page 14

Sculpture: Mrs Lucette Cartwright, whose work some have called pornographic, displays her latest startling works in bronze 2

Public libraries: Report says they have acquired a middle-class image which "turns off" many people 3

Madrid: The Spanish Government declared a state of exception, suspending some civil rights, in two Basque provinces 4

Cyprus: Archbishop Makarios is to have discussions in Washington on May 5 with Dr Henry Kissinger, on the island's future 5

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Football: Geoffrey Green discusses the first division relegation issues at stake in today's fixtures; Rugby Union: prospects for finals of English and Welsh knockout competitions
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Equities were unsettled yesterday by a rights issue from Sun Alliance. The FT index fell 4.7 to 332.6
Personal Investment and Finance: Building societies: Margaret Stone explains why the mortgage rate was not cut; Fixed interest investment: Adrienne Gleeson examines the merits of gilts; Capital transfer tax: Vera Di Palma discusses the exemptions

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HOME NEWS

Politicians in Ulster fear voters may boycott poll

From Christopher Walker Belfast

AS Ulster's million voters prepare to go to the polls next week for the sixth time in two years, candidates and government observers fear increasingly that electoral apathy could play into the hands of the Provisional Sinn Féin.

In all the republican strongholds the Provisionals have been striving to persuade people to boycott the ballot. A successful boycott would mean the Social Democratic and Labour Party, at the Assembly elections in June, 1973, the turnout was 72.26 per cent. Any significant drop below that will be claimed by Sinn Féin as justification for pressing its demands.

The boycott campaign has threatened to reopen the long feud between the official IRA and the Provisionals. In Londonderry yesterday Mr Michael Montgomery, one of 17 candidates standing for the Republican Clubs (the political wing of the official IRA) said: "Gangs of provocateurs are going round tearing down posters. It is clear they are not prepared

to let any other organization put its policies to the people." Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday resumed the phased release of republican detainees and freed 13 men from the Maze prison at Long Kesh. Nine of them had been held without trial for more than three years.

The Northern Ireland Office says that, despite occasional violent incidents, the spirit of the ceasefire continues, and 243 men have been let out since it was first declared last December. Last night there were 333 men still held in detention, all republicans.

Intestines claim: A father burst into a press conference being held by the Republican Clubs yesterday and dragged his son out complaining that he had been detained for 5½ hours (the Press Association writes). The club said the Army had been using teenage boys as informers and presented three 13-year-olds as part of a ring of men, allegedly with the parents' permission. The boys gave evidence purporting to substantiate the club's claims.

Leading article, page 13

Leyland plan is result of cowardice, Mr Powell says

By a Staff Reporter

British Leyland should not have been saved, Mr Enoch Powell, United Ulster Unionist MP for Down, South, said yesterday. The Government's plans for the company were another example of cowardice that gripped the country, he said.

Powell, addressing the Midlands region of the Institute of Production Engineering at Solihull, said British Leyland was bankrupt and ought to have gone into the receiver's hands. Its capital assets and workforce would then have been put to use inside or outside the car industry to the general benefit.

"Only when the nation merely allows it to happen but insists upon it happening will our feet be set again upon the path of honour and success," Mr Powell said. But cowardice had the upper hand still in Britain.

The country had become expert in excuses, one of which was that the failure of British Leyland would mean large unemployment. But keeping the men employed meant

putting public money where no investor would put his own. It was as if no profitable use existed for a million men released from an ill managed and unsuccessful undertaking. How did people imagine that the released workforce came to be employed, many of them doing jobs that did not exist and were not imagined 10 or 20 years ago?

Another excuse was the loss of exports; but no difference would be made to the balance of payments deficit by not exporting a single car. The deficit would remain as long as the Government overspent at home and borrowed billions of pounds from abroad. Resolute criticism: Mr Michael Heseltine, Opposition spokesman on industry, said in Birmingham yesterday that the transfer of a large part of British Leyland to the Government would not solve a single problem (Press Association reports).

It was relatively easy to analyse what had gone wrong and lay out a formula to put things right. But it was vastly more difficult to make it happen. *Business News, page 17*

Petition against former Tory MP dismissed

A settlement has been reached in the litigation between Mr Jeffrey Archer, former Conservative MP for Louth, and Mr Anthony Bampfild, director of an earth-moving firm.

Mr Archer's solicitors said yesterday that the bankruptcy petition filed by Mr Bampfild against Mr Archer had been dismissed in the High Court. Mr Bampfild had earlier contended that Mr Archer had borrowed £172,000 to buy shares in Aquablast, a Canadian industrial cleaning company, that collapsed last year.

Mr Archer announced last August that he would not contest his constituency again because of financial difficulties arising from investments in Aquablast.

Honor Blackman gets divorce

Miss Honor Blackman, the actress, was divorced yesterday from Mr Michael Kaufman whom she married in 1961 on the ground of his behaviour. They were granted joint custody of their two adopted children. Mr Freddie Laker, chairman of Laker Airways, offered no defence in the London Divorce Court yesterday when a decree nisi was granted to his second wife, Rosemary, on the ground of his adultery.

Jailed woman freed

The Yorkshire woman who on Thursday was jailed for 60 days by Halifax magistrates for refusing to pay a £25 fine imposed on her for throwing eggs at the Queen's car on November 13 was freed yesterday after the money was paid anonymously.

Muslim father loses care and control of his son

The Court of Appeal yesterday reversed an order made two months ago and awarded care and control of a boy aged five to his mother. The father, an Egyptian, had strongly wished to bring the boy up in the Muslim faith.

Lord Justice Ormrod said Judge Magnus, at Exeter County Court, grossly overestimated the importance of the religious issue in awarding the father care. In deciding which of the divorced parents should bring up the boy, the court had to look at it from the point of view of the best interests of him and his younger brother.

The mother, a woman of little or no religious feelings, was not in a position to offer a religious upbringing, particularly in the Arabic cultural tradition. But it was fair to remind the father that he had settled in England and married an Englishwoman not of the Muslim faith.

NUJ reject 'rescue' nationalization

The National Union of Journalists at its conference in Cardiff yesterday rejected a call from its book branch seeking the nationalization of any publishing company which was bankrupt or in such financial trouble that it could not maintain staffing levels.

Mr Kenneth Morgan, general secretary, said the proposal was unrealistic and adolescent. The union could not afford to pay the debts of every "clapped out enterprise and conscience to run it at a loss."

The conference adopted the branch's call for the strongest possible support for chapels (office branches) fighting redundancies. It told the executive to work out a strategy based on getting and keeping minimum staffing levels and full disclosure of financial information by employers.

Women back editors: A resolution that editors and others exercising editorial responsibility should be exempt from compulsory union membership and that editors should have the right to commission and publish articles from non-union contributors was carried by a large majority at the annual conference of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs at Brighton yesterday.

Earlier this week the usually moderate NUR executive narrowly avoided calling a national rail strike, and have ordered their general secretary, Mr Sidney Weighell, to report the union's progress to them by next Friday at the latest. The implication is that unless substantial progress has been made towards their full 30 per cent demand the strike threat will be renewed and could be implemented in the next week.

Strike plans: Preliminary strike plans were drawn up by NUR leaders in York yesterday (our York Correspondent writes). Mr Weighell said after meeting his 17 divisional officers: "I am sitting on a knife edge. While I am anxiously hoping for peace I am also preparing for war."

Mr William McCarthy, of Nuffield College, Oxford, the union's independent chairman, will be in touch with union leaders and British Rail this weekend. The tribunal is under pressure from the National Union of Railwaysmen to give a decision as quickly as possible.

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Mrs Cartwright with "Ondine" — "sensuous and erotic".

Bronzes to startle conformists

From Philip Howard Wotton, Surrey

There were strange happenings in the shrubbery at Wotton yesterday, to startle the conventional green and pleasant landscape of southern Surrey. Beside the front door a naked boy and girl embraced, with limbs interestingly and inexplicably entwined. A nude man dangled dislocated by his wrist from the branch of an oak tree 30ft above the bluebell. A naked girl, swooning, and who can blame her, was being dragged by the heels under the water of the pond by a pair of muscular arms.

Mrs Lucette Cartwright, the sculptress, was giving a garden party to display her latest large

and dramatic bronzes. They will be included in an exhibition of new work by 14 leading British sculptors, given in Holland Park by the Greater London Council and the Illustrated London News next month.

Mrs Cartwright has made her name over the past few years for her controversial, romantic, powerful sculptures, which some have called pornographic. She said yesterday: "Of course they are not pornographic; I admit to being sensuous and erotic in some of them. I love the human body."

Partly to vex her critics, one of her new pieces for next month's exhibition, "Leda and the Swan", is as sexually explicit as anything she has done. It portrays a huge swan with an intentionally phallic neck forcing a girl brutally backward into the water. It has been bought by the Southend Museum, and she hopes that the museum is aware of the protest controversy it is likely to stir up among conformists in Southend.

If Britain were to tear up the treaty, we would be expected to expect anyone to trust us again. He continued: "Having broken one treaty, why should anybody think we will keep another? Why can we not expect to carry in the council of nations? And this is where the anti-Marketters come badly unstruck. They naively believe that having broken one treaty with our partners in the Community, they can expect to sign a new and different treaty with us."

Mr Whitelaw, deputy leader of the Conservative Party, said in Carlisle that a vote for staying in Europe would ensure the best future for farmers and consumers. British influence had helped to make the common agricultural policy more flexible, especially to help beef producers. Most of Europe's producers of lamb were in Britain and the policy gave them some protection. Hill farmers would benefit too. Our EEC partners would pay Britain more than £25m a year, half the recently agreed selective aid modelled on Britain's well-tried system of hill farm subsidies.

Mr Ronald Bell, Conservative MP for Beaconsfield, who opposes membership, said in Staines that when he found someone who was thinking of voting to stay in the EEC, it was usually on the ground that the communists wanted us to come out.

Mr Mulley, Minister for Transport, said the United Textile Factory Workers' Association conference in Blackpool that it would be a disaster if there was a low poll.

The father of a girl whose injury damages award was reduced by nearly a third under an agreement between lawyers complained in the Court of Appeal yesterday. "There is certainly no justice in this case," Mr John Jones said after the judges had approved the settlement.

The court reduced by £2,600 damages of £8,192 awarded to his daughter, Denise, last April. The girl, now aged seven, was a baby when her hand was injured in a lift door at a house owned by Thurrock council in Essex. She went bald, it is feared for life, and wears a wig.

In the High Court last year the council was held liable and the lift manufacturer, William Wadsworth and Sons Ltd, two thirds liable. The girl's parents, who live at Cowper Avenue, Tilbury, Essex, were awarded £300 for the shock they suffered and £387 in expenses. Both respondents appealed on issues of liability and the amounts.

Mr Neil Butter, QC, for the council, told the court yesterday that the parties had agreed on terms to withdraw the appeal. Had it gone on, the Jones family could have lost all the damages. It was agreed that the girl should receive £5,550 and her parents £225 for shock and £481 expenses.

Ombudsman in asbestosis check
The Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the ombudsman) is to investigate the circumstances in which a large number of employees at a factory in Hebden Bridge, west Yorkshire, contracted asbestosis.
Mr Max Madden, Labour MP for Sowerby, claims that at least 30 of his constituents have died from the disease and more than 200 are suffering from it. Last July a former charge hand at the factory was awarded damages of £24,478 against the owners, Cape Asbestos.

EEC REFERENDUM

Mr Hattersley gives warning of penalties that could result from swift withdrawal

Crucial decisions affecting Britain will be made in Brussels if Britain stays in Europe, Mr Hattersley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, agreed yesterday. But that did not mean it would lessen Parliament's sovereignty, he said.

Mr Hattersley, a leading EEC supporter, told a meeting of British and European businessmen in London: "Decisions are made by the Council of Ministers—the nine foreign ministers—not by the Commission. The British Foreign Secretary can prevent governments from making stupid or impulsive decisions with which he does not agree. For instance, I once stopped ministers going ahead with one aspect of regional policy."

As long as the British Parliament could keep its eye on the minister, sovereignty would not suffer. Of the suggestion that Britain should leave the EEC and join a free trade agree-

ment, Mr Hattersley said such an agreement would not allow unfettered control over regional industrial policies and there would still be obligations in other areas. He told the European Management Forum about the dangers of a swift withdrawal.

"We simply tell the Community that we want to leave. That we can negotiate our membership comparatively swiftly, though not as swiftly as some people suggest. But speed would involve a dangerous penalty. . . . The moment we leave the Community a common tariff which averages 7½ per cent applies to all British industrial goods entering the EEC. Indeed, in some areas of particular importance to Great Britain the tariff will be much higher—18 per cent for chemicals, 22 per cent for commercial vehicles. If we are to sell into Europe, those tariffs, automatically imposed by precipitate withdrawal

from the EEC, would have to be negotiated away."

He added that he assumed most of those urging withdrawal wanted a free trade arrangement with the Community. Some, I know, do not. They want the British Government to create a free economy. But the more rational want a free trade agreement. Let us consider what that would involve. First of all, we would be asking the Community to come to an arrangement with us at a time when we had consciously rejected full Community membership. . . .

Some people argue that our position is secure because we will obtain the sort of arrangement enjoyed by the EFTA countries who chose not to join the Community in 1972. I think we would be more than lucky to obtain an agreement of that sort. Sweden, Norway, Switzerland and Austria have not joined the Community and their withdrawal. They were not the major industrial competitors that Great Britain might become.

EEC 'wants us as partners, not prisoners'

Europe wanted the British people as partners, not as prisoners, Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, told an annual meeting at Cannon Hall, London, last night. He pointed out that the Government, plans to revive British Leyland would be undermined if Britain withdrew from the Community.

Mr Jenkins was interrupted by hecklers and at one point the police ejected three men despite his pleas that they be allowed to remain.

It would be very difficult indeed for British Leyland to increase its business in Europe if Britain was not a member of the EEC, the Home Secretary said. He added:

"We can expect in their right minds to believe that they could increase their share of the European car market from 3 to 4 per cent. If we were to withdraw, we would increase their share of the truck market from 1 to 5 per cent faced with a 22 per cent tariff? If we came out, the future of the public-owned British Leyland company would be totally undermined. Mr Heath, the former Conservative leader, said in his constituency of Bexley, Sidcup, that it would be an act of madness for Britain to withdraw into a feeble isolation."

If Britain were to tear up the treaty, we would be expected to expect anyone to trust us again. He continued: "Having broken one treaty, why should anybody think we will keep another? Why can we not expect to carry in the council of nations? And this is where the anti-Marketters come badly unstruck. They naively believe that having broken one treaty with our partners in the Community, they can expect to sign a new and different treaty with us."

Mr Whitelaw, deputy leader of the Conservative Party, said in Carlisle that a vote for staying in Europe would ensure the best future for farmers and consumers. British influence had helped to make the common agricultural policy more flexible, especially to help beef producers. Most of Europe's producers of lamb were in Britain and the policy gave them some protection. Hill farmers would benefit too. Our EEC partners would pay Britain more than £25m a year, half the recently agreed selective aid modelled on Britain's well-tried system of hill farm subsidies.

Mr Ronald Bell, Conservative MP for Beaconsfield, who opposes membership, said in Staines that when he found someone who was thinking of voting to stay in the EEC, it was usually on the ground that the communists wanted us to come out.

Mr Mulley, Minister for Transport, said the United Textile Factory Workers' Association conference in Blackpool that it would be a disaster if there was a low poll.

The father of a girl whose injury damages award was reduced by nearly a third under an agreement between lawyers complained in the Court of Appeal yesterday. "There is certainly no justice in this case," Mr John Jones said after the judges had approved the settlement.

The court reduced by £2,600 damages of £8,192 awarded to his daughter, Denise, last April. The girl, now aged seven, was a baby when her hand was injured in a lift door at a house owned by Thurrock council in Essex. She went bald, it is feared for life, and wears a wig.

In the High Court last year the council was held liable and the lift manufacturer, William Wadsworth and Sons Ltd, two thirds liable. The girl's parents, who live at Cowper Avenue, Tilbury, Essex, were awarded £300 for the shock they suffered and £387 in expenses. Both respondents appealed on issues of liability and the amounts.

Mr Neil Butter, QC, for the council, told the court yesterday that the parties had agreed on terms to withdraw the appeal. Had it gone on, the Jones family could have lost all the damages. It was agreed that the girl should receive £5,550 and her parents £225 for shock and £481 expenses.

Ombudsman in asbestosis check
The Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the ombudsman) is to investigate the circumstances in which a large number of employees at a factory in Hebden Bridge, west Yorkshire, contracted asbestosis.
Mr Max Madden, Labour MP for Sowerby, claims that at least 30 of his constituents have died from the disease and more than 200 are suffering from it. Last July a former charge hand at the factory was awarded damages of £24,478 against the owners, Cape Asbestos.

Concessions on fruit juice keep London sweet

By Hugh Clayton

British efforts to change EEC proposals for rules on the composition of fruit juice were disclosed yesterday after publication by the Food Standards Committee of a report in which three recommendations conflicted with an EEC draft directive.

This was the second publication in little more than a month of a government food report in which policy suggestions clashed with Community plans.

The Steering Group on Food Freshness advised the Government in March to make food processors print "sell by" and "use by" dates on grocery labels. The EEC proposes "eat by" and a date.

Since the report on juices was completed last year, officials at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have won some concessions from Brussels.

The EEC intends to ban the addition of sugar to pear, apple and grape juice. The Food

Standards Committee commented: "In our view there is no reason why any fruit juice should not be marketed in a sweetened or unsweetened form, provided consumers are made aware of the difference."

The Community intended originally to ban the use of perfume, a scented volcanic ore, as a flavouring agent in the preparation of fruit juice. Its use is allowed under British law and the Government has persuaded Brussels against the proposed ban.

Clashes with Brussels may also be looming on fish. If EEC policy was not changed, trout would be inedible, the British Trout Fishers' Federation said yesterday.

A leading article in the federation's newspaper, *Trouting Times*, said that Britain was the leading fishing nation in Europe, with the largest fleet. It believed that 200-mile economic zones were inevitable, whatever the outcome of the United Nations law of the sea conference in Geneva.

Local count should mean a quicker res

By Roger Berthoud

The Government's acceptance that the referendum count should take place in the United Kingdom's 69 county centres caused some confusion at the Home Office and trepidation in county halls.

Plans for a central count were at an advanced stage at the Home Office. The Civil Service had been canvassed to raise the 10,000 counters needed to produce a reliable result within three days, working in two 12 hour shifts a day.

The responsibility for organization, and for announcing the results as they emerge, now passes to the chief executives or clerks of the counties. That should make the result available on Saturday rather than the Sunday evening.

It will greatly increase public interest, but will detract from the role of Sir Philip Allen, a former permanent Under-Secretary at the Home Office as national counting officer. designate. To him would have fallen the task of arranging a central count and the dramatic role of declaring the outcome of the nation's historic decision.

Local organization is now expected to be much the same at the polling booths as for a general election. But instead of being sent to the town hall or county hall, the ballot boxes will go to the seat of county government. The count will therefore be a relatively big operation, since the average county embraces some six or seven constituencies.

The 69 separate county units involved are the seven metropolitan counties (including Greater London), 39 non-metropolitan counties in England and eight in Wales, Scotland's nine new regions and three island regions. Northern Ireland as one unit, the Isles of Scilly as another, and finally the Service vote.

It seems that Earl Court, booked several weeks ago by the Home Office, may not be wholly idle. The five million or so votes of Greater London may be counted there with Mr James Swaffield, the GLC's director-general, as counting officer, and also the Services vote.

The chief executives of the counties are not overjoyed to be passed this huge administrative burden at such short notice, even though all save

'A day of disaster' if Britain leaves

From David Cross Brussels, April 25

The "massive" recent public opinion in Britain in favour of membership of the Community was principally to most of the nation's political leaders speaking with one voice and saying "stay in".

Mr James Thomson, one of two British EEC Commissioners, said today. What is bound to influence ordinary but puzzled anxious to do the right thing in the referendum, is the fact that the Community will have the responsibility of Britain's role in the world. Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, are now on that Britain's place is in the Community.

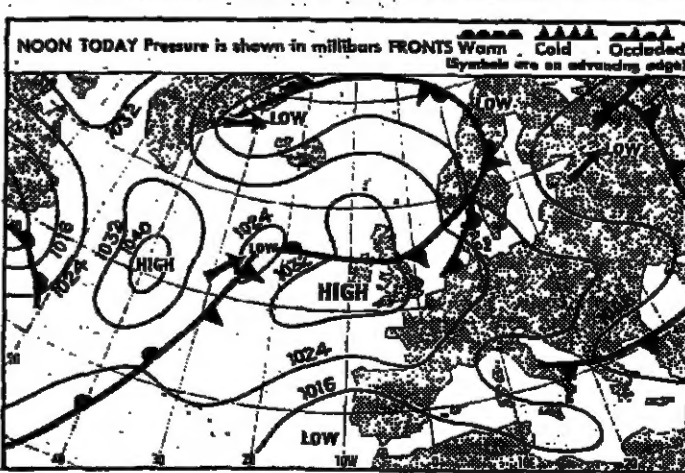
Mr Thomson, who addressed the British C of Commerce for Belgium, Luxembourg, said that British were to stay in. It would not be a day of independence but a national disaster. The incredulity on the C of Commerce's part that the anti-EEC group Britain should regard withdrawal as a declaration of independence.

The Government's recent campaign had shown the Community was friendly and ready to help. The problems of its new members were its own. The renegotiation has shown the Community really was trying to understand the Community from reading the Treaty of Rome which is the fundamental law of the Community.

The anti-Marketters, in like to understand the game of by reading the rule book. It was a striking coin that the referendum would coincide with twenty-fifth anniversary Schuman Plan. It was a reminder that the basic principle in pooling the steel industries that Europe's frontiers were some of his colleagues British Labour Party times claimed to be malism profitable; it make European war. "Today we think in trouble, what we wine or cheese war. Ha continent that wages with wine."

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Weather forecast and recordings



Today		Tomorrow	
Sun rises: 5.44 am	Sun sets: 8.11 pm	Sun rises: 5.42 am	Sun sets: 8.16 pm
Moon rises: 5.46 am	Moon sets: 9.33 pm	Moon rises: 6.25 am	Moon sets: 10.45 pm
Last quarter: May 3.			
Lighting up: 8.45 pm to 5.12 am.			
High water: London Bridge, 2.42 am, 7.2m (23.5ft); 3.10 pm, 7.3m (23.9ft). Avonmouth, 8.19 am, 13.7m (44.8ft); 8.42 pm, 13.7m (44.9ft). Dover, 12.10 pm, 6.7m (22.1ft). Hull, 7.11 pm, 7.5m (24.5ft). Liverpool, 12.19 pm, 9.5m (31.6ft).			
Low water: London Bridge, 3.26 am, 7.3m (23.9ft); 3.51 pm, 7.3m (23.9ft). Avonmouth, 9.3 am, 13.7m (44.8ft). Dover, 12.31 pm, 6.7m (22.1ft). Hull, 7.52 am, 7.5m (24.5ft); 8.11 pm, 7.6m (24.8ft). Liverpool, 12.42 am, 9.5m (31.6ft); 1.4 pm, 9.5m (31.6ft).			

districts, becoming more stable later over Scotland showers; rather warm near normal in N. Strait of Dover; S. moderate, locally light. English Channel (E to W), mainly mild to mild, mainly mild. St George's Channel light; sea smooth. Irish Sea: Wind NW smooth.

Yesterday
London: Temp: max 19°C (66°F); min 7°C (45°F). Humidity: 70 per cent. Wind: S, trace. Sun: 24 h, 1 h. Bar: mean sea 1,030.3 millibars, fall 1,000 millibars = 29.53.

Overseas selling prices
Australia: 100c. New Zealand: 100c. Canada: 100c. Hong Kong: 100c. India: 100c. Japan: 100c. South Africa: 100c. Switzerland: 100c. Taiwan: 100c. Thailand: 100c. USA: 100c. West Germany: 100c. Yugoslavia: 100c.

NEWS

Rises not the real
of economic
ble, Mr Benn says

d Perman

Secretary of State
allied himself
day in blaming
economic ills on a
of investment by
workers or unions
ame, as the press
had tried to make

and unemployment
by overpriced
produced on out-
ings by underpaid.
Benn told the
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Union of Engin-
ers at Blackpool
nts had increased
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caused Britain's

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the week would
unions decided
onopoly power.

If Britain accepted con-
tration on that scale, it would
become an underdeveloped area
faced with mass emigration of
skilled workers.

Mr Benn outlined his plan
for investing pension fund
money. The idea had come, he
said, from the TUC, which sug-
gested that savings of working
people should be used to pre-
serve jobs and strengthen indus-
try as well as to secure their
retirement.

The trade union movement
had to recognize that the sav-
ings of its members were a
formidable resource unhar-
nessed by the market economy.

Turning to British Leyland,
he said the Ryder report had
shown that the unremitting
attacks by the press and other
media on motor industry
workers were wrong. What was
wrong with British Leyland was
a chronic lack of investment.

The Government had to
choose between pulling out of
motor manufacturing altogether,
and endangering almost a mil-
lion jobs, and undertaking a
major reorganisation programme
involving public accountability,
public ownership, a great deal
of public money and a major
advance in industrial democ-
racy.

Mr Auckland was jailed for
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daughter, Susan, aged 15
months. He was convicted in
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But joint inquiries have been
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Mr Ross Secretary of State for
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area health authority, Bedfordshire
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M. Ride, former Deputy Director
of Social Services, Norfolk.

Tesco 'sold unfit food'
Tesco Stores Ltd. were fined
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Oil work strain
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£425,000 house: Stainsby House, at Smalley, Derbyshire, owned by Mr Robert Morley, a Midlands industrialist, for which £425,000 is being asked (our Estates Correspondent writes). Completed about 18 months ago to a design by David C. Shelley, it is ultra-modern in concept

and although there are only five bedrooms it has a total living area of about 15,000 sq ft, roughly the equivalent of 15 three-bedroom modern terrace houses. The main sitting room is 48ft long and other accommodation includes an indoor swimming pool in a room 75ft long. There

is a helicopter pad in 18 acres of grounds. The property is being marketed through Domain Country Estates, Ltd, of 12/14 Wigmore Street, London, a company recently formed to sell, internationally, luxurious properties costing more than £100,000.

Mrs Castle
orders
child death
inquiryBy Our Social Services
Correspondent

The sixth inquiry in two
years into a battered baby
case was announced yesterday
by Mrs Castle, Secretary of
State for Social Services. It
will examine the provision and
coordination of services to the
family of John George
Auckland, who has twice been
convicted of manslaughter of
his children.

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Preventive action on
children at risk urgedFrom a Staff Reporter
Edinburgh

Although the number of
children who were subjected to
physical violence or other
abuses in their families was
only a fraction of those requir-
ing care and attention from the
health service, it was neverthe-
less substantial, Mr Robert
Hughes, Under-Secretary of
State at the Scottish Office,
said in Edinburgh yesterday.

Addressing a conference on
non-accidental injury to chil-
dren he said: "In few cases
will a parent frankly admit the
real cause of a child's injury
or neglect, and in many cases
advice or aid will not be asked
for. Too often the help we are
able to bring comes later than
it should or in some tragic cases
simply too late altogether. In-
volvement for all concerned in
this field of work must increas-
ingly become a matter of pre-
ventive action whenever this is
possible.

Doctors, health visitors, teach-
ers and social workers must be
willing to take an initiative.
General practitioners should not
take the view that a child who
was not in need of medical
treatment was no concern of
theirs. Social workers must not
regard a home with young
children where marital violence
was reported as the concern
solely of the police. Teachers
should not limit their concern
for children to what happened
to them at school.

Mr Leslie Millard, chief
executive of the Leicester and
Leicestershire Chamber of Com-
merce, said yesterday that many
of the chamber's members were
considering legal action under
the General Rate Act, 1967.

A ratepayers' action group is
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purchase, with a view to seeking
their removal from office.
Another group says it may
organise a sit-in at the building,
the New Walk centre, which will
replace the council's nine exist-
ing office buildings.

Mr Hugh Jenkins, minister
responsible for arts, said that
local authorities had a respon-
sibility for the well being of
the communities they served
and that included the need to
ensure that a range of cultural
activities was available. "What
goes on in and around the
library in terms of a fuller life
for the many is more important
than, perhaps, what goes on in
and around the National
Theatre", he said.

Public Libraries and Cultural
Activities No 5, Department of
Education and Science, Life-
Information Service (Stationery
Office, 65p).

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Protests over
council plan
to buy officesFrom Our Correspondent
Leicester

The Labour-controlled Leice-
ster council has decided, appar-
ently in defiance of popular
opinion, to spend £7.25m on
buying a tower block of offices
for itself.

In a poll held by a local
newspaper, 98 per cent of
those questioned opposed the
purchase.

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Libraries 'have a middle-class image'

By Our Arts Reporter

Public libraries have achieved
a middle-class image which
"turns off" a large part of the
population, Mr Geoffrey Easton,
chairman of the Library Ad-
visory Council (England), said
in London yesterday.

He announced that a work-
ing party had been set up to
investigate why that was so, and
difficulties of people who were
unable to make use of library
services.

Mr Easton was introducing a
joint report prepared by the
English and Welsh advisory
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Victorian
paintings
show price
rallyBy Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A rally in Victorian picture prices
was confirmed at Christie's spring
auction yesterday. There were no
exceptional prices but several
paintings ran well beyond estimate,
90 per cent were sold, and London
dealers were back bidding.
The top price was £6,825 (estimate
£2,500-£5,000) paid by the Faustus
Gallery for a small but attractive
genre painting by James Trosset
entitled "The convalescent"; a
bearded old man is being
pushed in an elaborate wheel
chair, accompanied by a young
woman.

A rustic scene by Edward
Charles Williams and William
Shayer brought £4,410 (estimate
£1,000-£2,000), much more than
recent prices for this type of
picture. A delicious high Victorian
work, "The water babies", by
Sir Edward Poynter, made £2,780;
it had been priced at £2,000 in a
Phillips auction last July.

A barren Scottish landscape by
Sir John Millais, "Monthly
Moss, Perthshire", sold for £1,360
(estimate £1,000 to £1,500). It is
an example of historic shifts in
fashion within the picture mar-
ket. The painting appeared at
Christie's in 1909 and fetched
£3,150. By the 1930s it had come
into the possession of Sir Kenneth
Clark, now Lord Clark, and in
1934 he sent it for sale at Christie's, where it was bought in at
£3,150, a price which after a
bribe was found at £140.

There was an indication that
the financial drawing power of the
Victorian market was still strong.
His "Love and death" was sold yesterday
for £1,500 (estimate £600
to £1,000). A portrait of a
young girl went to Macdonald
Mason at £1,250 (estimate £400 to
£700); Harriott and Ayre sold
£575.50 (estimate £400 to £500)
for his "Watching for the return
of Theseus".

Libraries oppose
lending right

Deep concern about the Gov-
ernment's decision to go ahead
with legislation for a Public
Lending Right for authors has
been expressed in a letter from
the Library Advisory Council
(England) to Mr Hugh Jenkins,
the minister responsible for the
arts.

The council's letter refers to
widespread resentment among
librarians. It also doubts assur-
ances that the money to recom-
pense authors for borrowings
will come completely from
central funds.

£25,000 payroll raid

Five masked raiders, armed
with a seven-foot shotgun and
nick handles, escaped from
Desouttes Bros. tool manufac-
turers, of The Hyde, Hendon,
last night, yesterday after
stealing a £25,000 payroll.

unpaid, but deviously solicited testimonial for the Olympus OM1.

A new camera system off
in be tough. Particularly
crowded market, which
essionals are concerned,
minated by one brand.
y it helps if you can
essionals to buy it. So
ams - importer of the
ut to persuade his old
Flowers to buy it.

said, "It's the lightest,
diest SLR I've ever seen,
but you can see how
I've got tied up in this
stem."

tem you're using," said
een put together a bit at
a period of many years.
is fifteen years behind

mpus OM1 system has
ed as a complete entity.
ent combines perfectly...

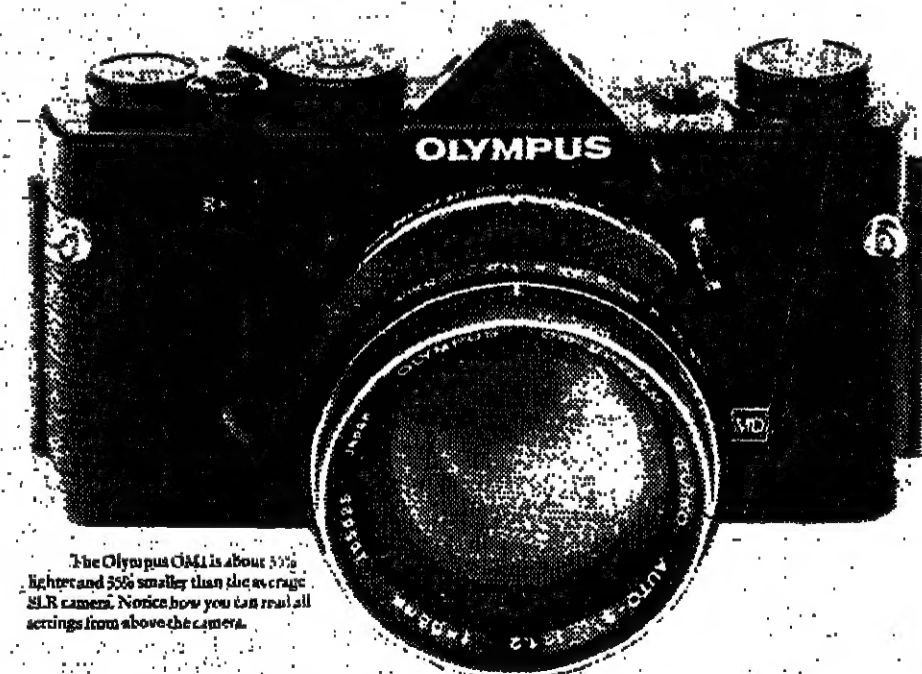
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to Adrian
lion number
ater. Many
n have been
gh the OM1
n has dis-
hat, with
sand camera
uted, he can
his jacket

en Deighton on his way
e where he is researching
ook "Yesterday's Spy".
d Len were RAF photo-
gether at Benson when
n was all the go.)
a gun in your pocket,

The shutter gave a
soft plop as Len took another shot.
"Yes, it's very quiet too. But I wish
it had a split image screen."

"Say no more."
Adrian changed the screen in 30
seconds and handed the camera back.
"David left the whole set of
seven screens with me," he said.



The Olympus OM1 is about 57%
lighter and 50% smaller than the average
SLR camera. Notice how you can see all
settings from above the camera.

"This spy business is getting to
you. It's about time you did another
cook book. As a matter of fact, it's an
Olympus OM1."

Len took the camera and lens from
Adrian and clicked them together.
(There's no linkage to
worry about, just a
simple bayonet fitting.)

Hesquipped through
the viewfinder. "It's a big,
bright viewfinder just as
the adverts say, and I can
see the whole picture in
spite of my spectacles."

"If you're going to
start taking sneaky
available light shots like
you did in the old days,
this is the camera," said
Adrian.

The shutter gave a
soft plop as Len took another shot.
"Yes, it's very quiet too. But I wish
it had a split image screen."

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"David left the whole set of
seven screens with me," he said.

Exit Len.
Shortly afterwards Adrian was
casting around his studio looking for
something. "Anyone seen that
Olympus OM1 I borrowed from
David Williams?"

Two weeks and a couple of
hundred frames later, Len Deighton
visits David Williams.

"Yes, Len, Adrian mentioned that
it had disappeared just after your visit."

Never mind the apologies David,
this is

The flood at Tinker Creek

by Annie Dillard

I live by a creek, Tinker Creek, in a valley in Virginia's Blue Ridge. An anchorite's hermitage is called an anchor-hold; some anchor-holds were simple sheds clamped to the side of a church like a barnacle to a rock. I think of this house clamped to the side of Tinker Creek as an anchor-hold. It holds me at anchor to the rock bottom of the creek itself and it keeps me steadied in the current, as a sea anchor does, facing the stream of light pouring down. It's a good place to live; there's a lot to think about. The creeks—Tinker and Carvin's—are an active mystery, fresh every minute. Theirs is the mystery of the continuous creation and all that providence implies: the uncertainty of vision, the horror of the fixed, the dissolution of the present, the intricacy of beauty, the pressure of fecundity, the elusiveness of the free, and the flawed nature of perfection. The mountains—Tinker and Brushy, McAfee's Knob and Dead Man—are a passive mystery, the oldest of all. Theirs is the one simple mystery of creation from nothing, of matter itself, anything at all, the given. Mountains are giant, restful, absorbent. You can heave your spirit into a mountain and the mountain will keep it, folded, and not throw it back as some creeks will. The creeks are the world with all its stimulus and beauty; I live there. But the mountains are home.

It was just this time last year that we had the flood. It was Hurricane Agnes, really, but by the time it got here, the weather bureau had demoted it to a tropical storm. I see by a clipping I saved that the date was June 21, the solstice, mid-summer's night, the longest daylight of the year; but I didn't notice it at the time. Everything was so exciting, and so very dark.

All it did was rain. It rained, and the creek started to rise. The creek, naturally, rises every time it rains; this didn't seem any different. But it kept raining, and, that morning of the twenty-first, the creek kept rising.

That morning I'm standing at my kitchen window. Tinker Creek is out of its left bank, way out, and it's still coming. The high creek doesn't look like our creek. Our creek splashes transparently over a jumble of rocks; the high creek obliterates everything in flat opacity. It looks like somebody else's creek that has usurped or eaten our creek and is moving frantically to escape, big and ugly, like a blacksnake caught in a kitchen drawer. The colour is foul, a rusty cream. Water that has picked up clay soils looks worse than other muddy waters, because the particles of clay are so fine; they spread out and cloud the water so that you can't see light through even an inch of it in a drinking glass.

Everything looks different. Where my eye is used to depth, I see the flat water, near, too near. I see trees I never noticed before, the black verticals of their rain-soaked trunks standing out of the pale water like pillars for a rotting dock. The stillness of grassy banks and stony ledges is gone; I see rushing, a wild sweep and hurry in one direction, as swift and compelling as a waterfall. The Atkins kids are out in their tiny rain gear, staring at the monster creek. It's risen up to their gates; the neighbours are gathering; I go out.

I hear a roar, a high windy sound more like air than like water, like the run-together whaps of a helicopter's propeller after the engine is off, a high million rushings. There are smells damp and cold, like fuel oil, or insecticide. It's raining.

I'm in no danger; my house is high. I hurry down the road to the bridge. Neighbours who have barely seen each other all winter are there, shaking their heads. Few have ever seen it before: The water is over the bridge. Even when I see the bridge now, which I do every day, I still can't believe it: the water was over the bridge, a foot or two over the bridge, which at normal times is eleven feet above the surface of the creek.

Now the water is receding slightly; someone has produced empty metal drums, which we roll to the bridge and set up in a square to keep cars from trying to cross. It takes a bit of nerve even to stand on the bridge: the flood has ripped away a wedge of concrete that buttressed the bridge on the bank. Now one corner of the bridge hangs apparently unsupported while water hurls in an arch just inches below.

It's hard to take it all in, it's all so new. I look at the creek at my feet. It smashes under the bridge like a fist, but there is no end to its force; it hurries down as far as I can see till it kurches round the bend, filling the valley, flattening, mashing, pushing, wider and faster till it fills my brain.

It's like a dragon. Maybe it's because the bridge we are on is chancy, but I notice that no

one can help imagining himself washed overboard, and gauging his chances for survival. You couldn't live. Mark Spitz couldn't live. The water arches where the bridge's supports at the banks prevent its enormous volume from going wide, forcing it to go high; that arch drives down like a diving whale, and would butt you on the bottom. "You'd never know what hit you," one of the men says. But if you survived that part and managed to surface...? How fast can you live? You'd need a windshield. You couldn't keep your head up; the water under the surface is fastest. You'd spin around like a sack in a clothes dryer. You couldn't grab on to a tree trunk without leaving that arm behind. No, you couldn't live. And if they ever found you, your gut would be solid red clay.

It's all I can do to stand. I feel dizzy, drawn, maddened. Below me the floodwater boils to a violent froth that looks like dirty lace, a lace that continuously explodes before my eyes. If I look away, the earth moves backward, rises and swells, from the fixing of my eyes at one spot against the motion of the flood. All the familiar land looks as though it were not solid and real at all, but pinned on a scroll like a backdrop, and the unrolled scroll has been shaken, so the earth sways and the air rars.

Everything imaginable is zipping by, almost too fast to see. If I stand on the bridge and look downstream, I get dizzy; but if I look upstream, I feel as though I am looking up the business end of an avalanche. There are dots, split wood and kindling, dead fledgling songbirds, bottles, whole bushes and trees, rakes and garden gloves. Wooden, rough-hewn railroad ties charge by faster than express. Lasting, floating bobs along, and a wooden picket gate. There are so many white plastic gallon milk jugs that when the flood ultimately recedes, they are left on the grassy banks looking from a distance like a flock of white geese.

I expect to see anything at all. In this one way, the creek is more like itself when it floods than at any other time: mediating, bringing things down. I wouldn't be at all surprised to see John Paul Jones coming round the bend, standing on the deck of the *Box Homine Richard*, or Amelia Earhart waving gaily from the cockpit of her floating Lockheed. Why not? I call to a basket of bread-fruit, a casket of antique coins? Here comes the Franklin expedition on snowshoes, and the three magi, plus camels afloat on a canopied barge!

The whole world is in flood, the land as well as the water. Water streams down the trunks of trees, drips from bat-brims, courses across roads. The whole earth seems to slide like sand down a chute; water pouring over the least slope flattens the grass, flattened, silver side up, pointing downstream. Everywhere windfall and flotsam twigs and leafy boughs, wood from woodpiles, borders, and saturated straw spatter the ground or streak it in curving windrows. Tomatoes in flat gardens are literally floating in mud; they look as though they have been dropped whole into a boiling, brown-gravy stew. The level of the water table is at the top of the toe of my shoes. Pale muddy water lies on the flat so that it all but drowns the grass; it looks like a hideous parody of a light snow on the field, with only the dark tips of the grass blades visible.

When I look across the street, I can't believe my eyes. Right behind the road's shoulder are waves, waves whipped in rhythmically peaking scallops, racing downstream. The hill where I watched the praying mantis lay her eggs is a waterfall that splashes into a

brown ocean. I can't even remember where the creek usually runs—it is everywhere now. My log is gone for sure. I think—but in fact, I discover later, it holds, rammed between growing trees. Only the cable suspending the stairs' fence is visible, and not the fence itself; the stairs' pasture is entirely in flood, a brown river. The river leaps its banks and smashes into the woods where the motor-bikes go, devastating all but the sturdiest trees. The water is so deep and wide it seems as though you could navigate the Queen Mary in it, clear to Tinker Mountain.

What do animals do in these floods? I see a drowned muskrat go by like he's flying, but they all couldn't die; the water rises after every hard rain, and the creek is still full of muskrats. This flood is higher than their raised sleeping platforms in the banks; they must just race for high ground and hold on. Where do the fish go, and what do they do? Presumably their gills can filter oxygen out of this muck, but I don't know how. They must hide from the current behind any barriers they can find, and fast for a few days. They must; otherwise we'd have no fish; they'd all be in the Atlantic Ocean. What

about herons and kingfishers, say? They can't see to eat. It usually seems to me that when I see any animal, its business is urgent enough that it couldn't easily be suspended for 48 hours. Crayfish, frogs, snails, rotifers? Most things must simply die. They couldn't live. Then I suppose that when the water goes down and clears, the survivors have a field day with no competition. But you'd think the bottom would be knocked out of the food chain—the whole pyramid would have no base plankton, and it would crumble, or crash with a thud. Maybe enough spores and larvae and eggs are constantly being borne down from slower upstream waters to repopulate... I don't know.

Some little children have discovered a snapping turtle as big as a tray. It's hard to believe that this creek could support a predator that size; its shell is 14 1/2 in across, and its head extends a good 7 in beyond the shell. When the children—to the company of a shrunken perrier—approach it on the bank, the snapper rears up on its thick front legs and hisses very impressively. I had read earlier that since turtles' shells are rigid, they don't have bellows lungs; they have to gulp for air. And, also since their shells are rigid, there's only room for so much inside, so when they are frightened and planning a retreat, they have to expel air from their lungs to make room for head and feet—hence the malevolent hiss.

The next time I look I see that the children have somehow manoeuvred the snapper into a washub. They are waving a broom handle at it in hopes that it will snap the wood like a matchstick but the creature will not design to oblige. The kids are crushed; all their lives they have heard that this is one thing you do with a snapping turtle—you shove a broom handle near it and it "snaps it like a matchstick". It is nature's way; it is sure-fire. But the turtle is having none of it. It avoids the broom handle with an air of patiently repressed rage. They let it go, and it beelines down the bank, dives unhesitatingly into the swirling floodwater, and that is the last we see of it.

A cheer comes up from the crowd on the bridge. The truck is here with a pump for the Bowers' basement, hooray! We roll away the metal drums, the truck makes it over the bridge, to my amazement—the crowd cheers again. State police cruise by; everything's fine here; downstream people are in trouble. The bridge over by the Bings' on Tinker Creek looks like it is about to go. There is a tree trunk wedged against its railing, and a section of concrete is out. The Bings are away, and a young

couple is living there, "taking care of the house". What can they do? The husband drove to work that morning as usual; a few hours later, his wife was evacuated from the front door in a motorboat.

I walk to the Bings'. Most of the people who are on over bridge eventually end up over there; it is just down the road. We struggle along in the rain, gathering a crowd. The men who work away from home are here, too; their wives have telephoned them at work this morning to say that the creek is rising fast, and they had better get home while the getting is good.

There's a big crowd already there; everybody knows that the Bings is low. The creek is coming in the recreation room windows; it's halfway up the garage door. Later that day people will haul out everything salvageable and try to dry it: books, rugs, furniture—the lower level was filled from floor to ceiling. Now on this bridge a road crew is trying to chop away the wedged tree trunk with a long handled axe. The handle isn't so long that they don't have to stand on the bridge, in Tinker Creek. I walk along a low brick wall that was built to retain the creek away from the house at high water. The wall holds just fine, but now that the creek's receding, it's retaining water around the house. On the wall I can walk right out into the flood and stand in the middle of it. Now on the return trip I meet a young man who's going in the opposite direction. The wall is one brick wide; we can't pass. So we clasp hands and lean back, now they all want to walk over the brick wall to the bush, to get bitten by the snake.

The little Atkins kids are here, and they are hopping up and down. I wonder if I hopped up and down would the bridge go? I could stand at the railing as at the railing of a steamboat, shouting deliciously. "Mark three! Quarter-less-threes! Half twain! Quarter twain!" as the current bore the broken bridge out of sight around the bend before she sank.

Everyone else is standing around. Some of the women are carrying curious plastic umbrellas that look like diving bells—umbrellas they don't put up, but on; they don't get out, but in. They can see out dimly like goldfish in bowls. Their voices from within sound distant but with an underlying cheerfulness that plainly acknowledges, "Isn't this ridiculous?" Some of the men are wearing their fishing hats. Others duck their heads under folded newspapers held not very high in an effort to compromise between keeping their heads dry and letting rain run up their sleeves. Following some form of courtesy, I guess, they lower these newspapers when they speak with you, and squint politely into the rain.

Women are bringing coffee in mugs to the road crew. They've barely made a dent in the tree trunk, and they're giving up. It's a job for power tools; the water's going down anyway, and the danger is past. Some kid starts doing tricks on a skateboard; I head home.

On the same day that I was standing on bridges here over Tinker Creek, a friend, Lee Zacharias, was standing on a bridge in Richmond over the James River. It was a calm day there, with not a cloud in the sky. The James River was up a mere nine feet, which didn't look too unusual. But floating in the river was everything under the bright sun. As Lee watched, chicken coops

raced by, chunks of house porches, stairs, whole uprooted trees—and finally a blond dead horse. Lee knew, all of Richmond knew: it was coming.

There the James ultimately rose 32 feet. The whole row was under water, and all electrical power was out. When Governor Holton signed the emergency relief bill—while flood-struck county among the federal disaster areas—he had to do it by candlelight.

That night a curious thing happened in the blacked-out Governor's mansion. Governor Holton walked down a upstairs hall and saw, to his disbelief, a lightbulb glowing in a ceiling fixture. It was one of three bulbs, all dead—40 whole city was dead—but the one bulb was giving off a faint electrical light. He stared at the thing, scratched his head, and announced, "Impossible." The governor went back to bed, and the electrician went home. No explanation has ever been found.

Later Agnes would move on up into Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York, killing people and doing hundreds of millions of dollars worth of damage. There in Virginia alone it killed 12 people and ruined \$160m worth of property. But in Pennsylvania twice, coming and going, I talked to or of the helicopter pilots who had helped airlift ancient corpses from a flooded cemetery in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The flood left the bodies stranded on housetops, trees; the pilots, sickened, had to be relieved every few hours. The one I talked to, in a lull sandwiched at the Peaks & Otter on the Blue Ridge Parkway, preferred Vietnam. We were lucky here.

This winter I heard a fine flood story, about an ex-dividend that the flood left the Bings, a surprise as unexpected as a baby in a basket on a stool.

The Bings came home on their house was ruined, but somehow they managed to salvage almost everything, an live as before. One afternoon in the summer a friend went to visit them; as he was coming in, he met a man coming out a professor with a large volume under his arm. The Bings led my friend inside to the kitchen, where the proudly opened the oven door and showed him a giant mushroom—which they were baking to serve to guests the following day. The professor with the book had just been verified in his edibility. I imagined a mushroom, wrinkled, black and big as a dinner plate erupting overnight, mysteriously in the Bings' living room—from the back of an upholstered couch, say, or from a scil-damp rug under an armchair. Alas, the story as I heard it in my mind proved to be only partly true. The Bings often cook wild mushrooms and they know what they're doing. This particular mushroom had grown outside, and a sycamore, on high ground, that the flood hadn't touched. So the flood had nothing to do with it. But it's still a go-story, and I like to think that the flood left them a gift, consolation prize, so that years to come they will find edible mushrooms; he and there about the house, dner on the bookshelf, he d'oeuvres in the piano would have been nice.

This extract is taken from *I Walk on Bridges* by Annie Dillard, to be published by Jonathan Cape Ltd next Thursday at £3.95.
© 1974 by Annie Dillard.



Bridge

Stealing a march

Wood conventional jumps was never in a more than a protest. Various ways of providing information, have been dithered, but they sometimes ludicrously contract, less than had been one would have the interpretation Clubs response to four or no aceing; yet a national only bid a grand four aces against partner's refusal to be could have been full encouragement's hand, precision most explicit rather than to know; otherwise each a small slam ace-king. In one ing competition, it was provided by two hands in dealer East.

South's bid of Four Clubs after Spades were confirmed as the trump suit suggested control of the clubs; he avoided making the safe, constructive bid of Five Hearts, over Four Spades, using Blackwood as a device to get the ace of spades. West led the ♠A to which his partner followed with the ♠4—the only way in which he could have protected himself. But West was so obsessed with South's slam that he failed to see that Clubs that he could not decide whether to play a club, attempt to give East a ruff in diamonds or switch to a heart. The sight of the ♠K in dummy, and the thought that the ♠A would not run away if his partner actually held it, persuaded West to lead a second diamond, and South discarded his losing clubs on dummy's winners.

In those early days there was doubt whether you were "playing the game" in an employment convention to put your opponent on lead off the scene; now your partner would be the object.

Edward Mayer

Chess

Fast mover

Last the reigning Anzky Karion to the world throne was duly crowned. The 23 year-old must be the winner of the title with a final match. It is true, did not win a match in 1943, a match in 1949, a fact a genuine merit in which each number of times. I more remarkable or should also be a player who has won without having a let Championship. I never won the right, did at least face with Bronstein agreed they should implore K. to play. Of the amazing his career that this and no doubt Karion in many a Soviet p in the years to a move so fast in world that he won junior Championship m. It was in fact years ago. A year ago, a year ago, the grandmaster then he was playing at one of the stages in his career. Here then is a game he won in the Junior European Championship at Groningen, 1967-68.

White: Hostenet, Black: Karpov. QP Nimzowitsch Defence.

1. P-K4, K-K5, 2. P-K3, 3. P-K4, 4. P-K5, 5. P-K6, 6. P-K7, 7. P-K8, 8. P-K9, 9. P-K10, 10. P-K11, 11. P-K12, 12. P-K13, 13. P-K14, 14. P-K15, 15. P-K16, 16. P-K17, 17. P-K18, 18. P-K19, 19. P-K20, 20. P-K21, 21. P-K22, 22. P-K23, 23. P-K24, 24. P-K25, 25. P-K26, 26. P-K27, 27. P-K28, 28. P-K29, 29. P-K30, 30. P-K31, 31. P-K32, 32. P-K33, 33. P-K34, 34. P-K35, 35. P-K36, 36. P-K37, 37. P-K38, 38. P-K39, 39. P-K40, 40. P-K41, 41. P-K42, 42. P-K43, 43. P-K44, 44. P-K45, 45. P-K46, 46. P-K47, 47. P-K48, 48. P-K49, 49. P-K50, 50. P-K51, 51. P-K52, 52. P-K53, 53. P-K54, 54. P-K55, 55. P-K56, 56. P-K57, 57. P-K58, 58. P-K59, 59. P-K60, 60. P-K61, 61. P-K62, 62. P-K63, 63. P-K64, 64. P-K65, 65. P-K66, 66. P-K67, 67. P-K68, 68. P-K69, 69. P-K70, 70. P-K71, 71. P-K72, 72. P-K73, 73. P-K74, 74. P-K75, 75. P-K76, 76. P-K77, 77. P-K78, 78. P-K79, 79. P-K80, 80. P-K81, 81. P-K82, 82. P-K83, 83. P-K84, 84. P-K85, 85. P-K86, 86. P-K87, 87. P-K88, 88. P-K89, 89. P-K90, 90. P-K91, 91. P-K92, 92. 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Travel

On the trail of a Hamburger

The number plates on the cars are initials: HH for Hamburg Hansa, and this, Europe's fourth largest port, is splendidly Hansatic in spirit still, in spite of the fact that few mediaeval traces remain of a city largely rebuilt since the war. The prevailing impression is one of outward-goingness, in every sense. At the Wilkommen-Hof, or Welcome Point, on the Elbe estuary, inward and outward-bound shipping is bidden hail or farewell with its own national

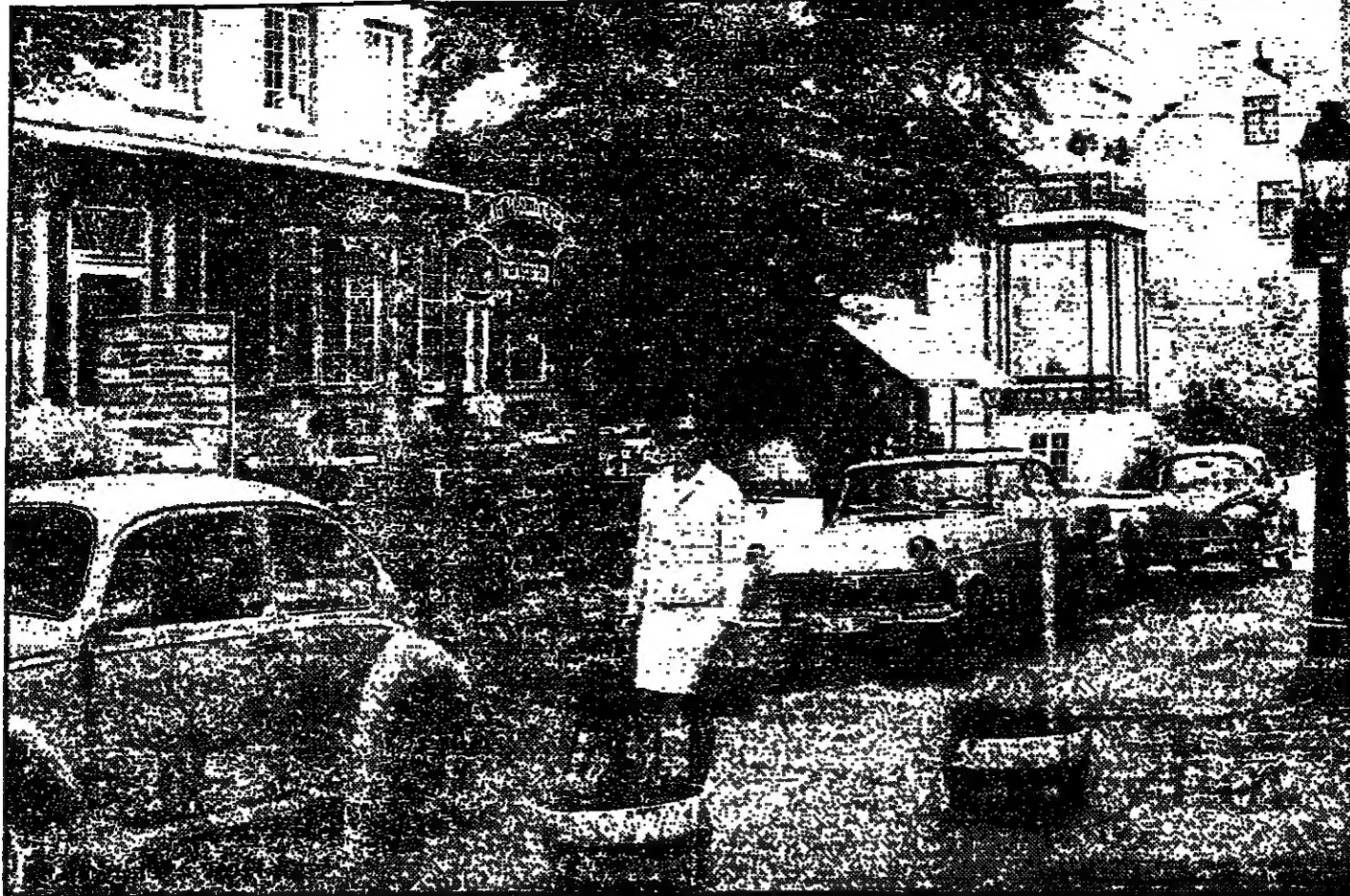
anthem, and an agreeably welcoming attitude also extends, quite noticeably to foreign visitors.

I say visitors rather than tourists because, compared for example to Munich, Hamburg draws comparatively few of the latter. Was this, I kept asking myself, why people seemed to be so pleasant? Hamburg, a city state, is generally noted for a capacity for understatement frequently compared with ours. It makes no great play of its attractions. Yet it is a handsome city set, like Geneva, on a lake—or rather, two lakes, the Binnen and the Aussen Alster, bisected by a bridge. White-sailed dinghies sail across it in summer, one can as easily get around by water bus as by any other means, and at every landing stage there is a small cafe and wooden decks arrayed with canvas chairs for people to relax and sunbathe.

This sense of urban euphoria is perpetuated by the hotels, the noble Vier Jahreszeiten on the Binnen Alster and the newer, extremely pleasant Intercontinental on the shores of the Aussen Alster, with lawn and a pool. This is on the edge of a Belgravia-like area called Pisseldorf, full of handsomely painted mansions which belong to the merchant aristocracy, all set among avenues, gardens and trees in an aura of elegant solidarity, its core the gay, lively little Milchstrasse.

On the opposite pole is the Reeperbahn ("Rope-makers' Street"), which looks like a combination of Sunset Strip and the Mile End Road and smells overwhelmingly of frying oil. You can be tattooed, fished, seduced, killed or amused there. It seldom bored—or rather, neither more nor less bored than in a similar environment elsewhere. The famed ladies wrestling in mud, as memorably described by Ian Fleming, are elusive—but then, real pointers are lacking. Many Hamburgers affect not to know, and regard the Reeperbahn as a jaunt for the more naive out-of-towners. Very much more rewarding, in roughly the same area, is the Altona market. Apart from a good restaurant (the Fischerei-haus) there is a truly stupendous Sunday morning market which opens at 5 am and is a going concern until 10, when the church bells begin to chime and the city streets are running in to sluice away the last of the merry bedlam of fruit, vegetables, fish, hot sausages and fried plaice sold straight from the pan—all of which, in the last few minutes, are almost thrown at the crowds for knock-down prices.

Beyond Altona, the Elbe-



Pisseldorf: a Belgravia-like aura of elegant solidarity.

strasse extends for some 40 kilometres along the northern banks of the river, laced by an affluent but elegant suburbia of country inns and villages, which are particularly attractive for a Sunday outing. One of the most interesting is Blankenese, which is inhabited largely, they say, by retired sea captains; contains a multitude of antique shops, and some very pleasant terrace restaurants. Notable among these is Sogebell's Fahrhaus, from which one can watch the coming and going of the boats and sometimes a flower-lug of jade or crimson rockets sent up in greeting to them. Anything from lager and a snack to wine and full-scale meal are served with equal grace; an easy-going attitude which I, for one, greatly appreciated.

You get some idea of the immediate geography of Hamburg in one of the glass-topped excursion boats which ply the lake; another, from the gallery tower of St Michael's, the most beloved of the city's six major churches. The interior (rebuilt for the fifth time at recently as 1947, though in faithful replica of Sponcio's original of two centuries earlier) is splen-

dently, spaciouly beautiful, almost theatrical—and you may have the luck to hear an organ recital there. Otherwise, apart from the Opera, this is not—unless I misinterpret the understatement of the natives—a city kissed by the Muses. By other European standards, the museums are nothing special; and you will find more old Hansatic architecture and atmosphere in the churches and almshouses of neighbouring Lübeck, which, on the Autobahn, is an easy and immensely worthwhile trip.

Hamburg's food, on the other hand, can be very special indeed if your taste runs as mine does, to such delicacies as crayfish in creamy dill sauce; smoked eel, sturgeon and salmon; excellent North Sea sole; goose, and goose liver paté—and a fine line in disarmingly tempting concoctions of whipped cream and fresh raspberries, laced with Himgbergstrasse—a specialty of the Intercontinental's agreeable café.

The best restaurants, such as Peter Lemke, are comfortably

French, and well polished by knowing and appreciative patronage. A lot of the city's character, in fact, is contained within places where people gather to eat—for your typical Hamburger is no lettuce-leaf-and-radish man. The Rathaus epitomizes a staunch quality of independence which neither time nor politics has eroded. Kaiser Wilhelm mounted its steps unscathed to greet the mayor who, in local tradition, never descended to greet anyone, monarch included. It has a cellar restaurant of quite Gothic splendour, all stained glass windows and model ships, tended by immensely dignified elderly waiters. For lunch especially, it is popular for its huge variety and good value. Schumann's Austerkeller, on the other hand, seems made for the evening. Nearly a century old, its series of separate candle-lit salons with their plush, their decor, their immaculate napery and service, are pure Prince-and-showgirl, though the food is taken very seriously. Its more sober, masculine rival, Johan Collin, is in the heart of the Press district

(Hamburg being, far from incidentally, the publishing Mecca of West Germany). We lunched in the room Bismarck used to frequent, and from which, according to our host, he would dictate scathing editorials concerning his successor, Caprivi. Framed in a corner in his faded sepia handwriting is an epigram which translates: "The German wants to be fully conscious of his strength he must have half a bottle of wine in his belly—or better yet, a whole bottle." I can imagine no more evocative setting within which to follow his advice.

How to get there: For excursions, ferries ply the Elbe from St Pauli pier to Cuxhaven and Heligoland. Otherwise, a self-drive car is a particular boon since Hamburg's environs are an essential part of its perspective. Freewheelers return fare of about £80 providing two people travel together. An alternative (unmotorized) is the availability of half fare for an accompanying spouse on a brief business trip.

Doone Beal

Gardening

Waterworks

"What March will not April brings always; What April cannot do, May will do all day."

This is a variant of the old saying that "A late spring never deceives", that is, when it finally arrives it does not dicker about—it stays.

Now the lesson for us all this year is that once the weather does warm up and let us get on the ground, we will have to move fast. We will probably wish there were seven Sundays in the week.

Do not worry about being late with your sowings. The usual time recommended for sowing grass seed is the last week of April. But if you have ever sown grass seed in May or June when the soil has warmed up you will know how much faster it germinates. So it is with other seeds—the later sowings often catch up with the earlier ones, there is less danger of the seeds rotting in wet soil, or being stolen by birds or other soil pests.

One point, however, we have to watch and that is to see that germinating seedlings do not go short of water if we run into dry spells. This is more likely to happen to later sowings, and the results of a period of hot dry weather can be serious unless you can turn on a sprinkler.

Some people I find have had poor results from pelleted seeds. This has been due to failure to keep sufficient moisture in the soil to moisten the coating of clay which surrounds the seed and forms the pellet. This must be softened by moisture sufficiently to encourage and allow the seed to germinate. Again, if seeds are sown when the weather has cheered up and turned warm and dry it will be more than ever necessary to keep this point in mind.

Hozelock have produced several new and very reasonably priced small sprinklers. Their "mini sprinklers" start at about 60p and go up to about £1. They cover an area of 300 or 400 square feet. Other sprinklers in the range of some 20 types include those that will water an area up to 3,500 square feet, a circle of 68 feet diameter, and there are sprinklers that water a square or rectangle, a circle or a part circle.

But of course the type of sprinkler suitable for use in your garden depends on the flow or pressure of the water you have in your water main. Hozelock have produced a most helpful booklet *The Complete Watering System* which gives hints on choosing the right sprinkler or sprinklers for your garden.

First it tells you how to assess the water pressure flow. You take a two gallon bucket and time how long it takes to fill from the end of your hose—not from the tap because you lose a certain amount of pressure as the water flows through the hose. If it takes 20 seconds to fill, you have high flow or pressure; if it takes 25 to 30 seconds you have medium flow; or if it takes 35 seconds you have low flow. These figures are a guide to the flow or pressure requirements for the range of sprinklers, and how great an area each will cover.

I have never seen this information set out in this way before. The booklet, which illustrates not only sprinklers but all the various types of h connectors, is available from Hozelock Ltd, Haddenham, Aylesbury, Bucks HP17 8JD.

Now let us consider sweet corn as seed may be sown in glass now, or in the open ground towards the end of May. Last year many of us had rather disappointing results with our sweet corn. The weather, particularly the nights, was cold in late May and early June which checked the plants and they never going. Sweet corn really needs warm soil and warm nights, which, of course, go together.

I think we may have been a bit over confident in years with sweet corn, but this year, with the hybrids much more quickly than old varieties. This does mean we can sow or plant it earlier. There are at least a dozen F1 varieties of sweet corn around now, all past two or three years. We do not find a great deal of difference between Suttons Firs All, North Star or Earli-Kelvedon Glory with us in a little later.

I think Firs All or North Star would be good varieties, most parts of the country. North Star, as its name suggests, especially for the north.

Early Xtra Sweet again up to its name, and strains the cobs do not toughen up as late varieties do. They are tender and sweet for up to 10 days. I have found them smaller, however, than other varieties I have grown. Also, we are told not to plant them alongside other crops as the cross pollination may affect the flavour of Early Sweet.

The Canadian variety Pol from Thompson & Morgan Ipswich, is short stemmed, cobs are on the small side but of outstanding flavour. It is very early and would be worth trying in the colder areas where other varieties have not done well.

But no matter what variety of sweet corn you grow it will need to be covered with a glass or plastic sheeting. It will usually raise the soil temperature by several degrees and this is a great help. Get cover on now.

Jobs for May

Most of us are well behind with the work this year, so try to catch up with digging, sowing and planting as quickly as possible. Sow peas, sea-kale, beet, chichory, cabbages, lettuce, radishes, onions for pulling green, carrots, beet, swedes, and towards the end of the month, French and runner beans, marrow and sweet corn; sow marrows and outdoor cucumbers and melons under glass.

Continue to sow hardy and half-hardy annuals. Plant out the annuals raised under glass when danger of frost is past.

Plant chrysanthemums in mid May. Plant geraniums, dahlias, fuchsias and other tender plants at the end of the month in the south, in early June in the north.

Apply selective weedkillers to lawns.

Stake herbaceous plants before they become too tall—using twiggly sticks.

Thin and weed seedling rows

Sow biennials such as flowers, sweet williams, pansies, Canterbury foxgloves, in a well prepared seed bed.

Earth up potatoes as necessary.

Watch for aphids, caterpillars and other pests—particularly on the underside of the leaves and down among the shoots of plants such as strawberries. Apply an insecticide at the first signs of a pest.

If you have any mulch material—garden compost or mushroom compost or the like—apply it to the soil as a mulch around herbaceous plants under shrubs and fruit trees.

Roy

Travel books

A Holiday History of Scotland
By Ronald Hamilton
(Chatto & Windus, £3)

The Queen's Scotland: The North East
By Nigel Tranter
(Hodder & Stoughton, £4.25)

Hebridean Islands: Colonsay, Gigha, Jura
By John Mercer
(Blackie, £4.75)

Fishing Boats and Fisher Folk on the East Coast of Scotland
By Peter F. Anson
(Dent, £5.25)

Scotsmen may win at the idea of a *Holiday History* of their stern and revered land. Do John Knox and the Covenanters, or the Clearances and the Disruption, really go well with picnics? But Mr Hamilton's firmly planned book overcomes any initial doubts. It is history divided into short and distinct compartments for ease of reference and is intended, he says, not to be read at one go but to be used as a long-stop behind the guide books.

The guide books refer, say, to a monastery begun in the time of Alexander III. Mr Hamilton is ready to tell you who Alexander III was and what he did. Each main personage is also accorded a thumbnail character sketch: eg, Charles II, "An amorous comedian, the wide range of whose activities seldom included his duty, but really able." There are chapters on the Union of 1707 and on the evils of the early industrialization. "It would be hard to find in other parts of the British Isles or Europe, Industrial Revolution conditions as bad as those suffered by the Scots": a dictum followed by ample supporting evidence.

Mr Hamilton, a former housemaster at Winchester and author of other *Holiday Histories*, turns a phrase so attractively that in spite of its warning the book can be read straight through without waiting for guide books. It is only just over two hundred pages and is most intelligently illustrated.

My one complaint is that he does not venture far enough into the Highlands and seems at times a little insecure there. It is misleading to say that "the Macdonalds... agreed to back" Prince Charles Edward in 1745. Alas, not all of them did agree. And Napoleon's Marshal MacDonald did not fight at Waterloo; he declined to follow his old master after Elba.

Nigel Tranter's method is

more orthodox. He covers with great thoroughness a region of Scotland, from the Inner Hebrides eastward along both sides of the Moray Firth—that should be better known. Many who like the elegance of Moray, Nairn and Easter Ross, and who think they know the region, will be surprised at the wealth of history and architecture which Mr Tranter has brought together. So far as I can see every town, village and parish is described in some detail and is given its place in the story of the north-east.

One blinks, though, when Mr Tranter reaches Culter and Moor and writes: "This is no place in which to enter into any description of that grim and highly significant engagement." How very odd! A reader would have thought it the best possible place; and in fact Mr Tranter goes on to give judgments on the fighting and the melancholy sequel. The book is helpful and businesslike in all sections.

Much more detailed and concentrated is John Mercer's study of three small islands, Colonsay, Gigha, and Jura, in the west. It is a sad and highly useful book. Mr Mercer is an archaeologist who has lived in Jura for 12 years. He tells of the bleak past of the three islands' communities, and suggests several ways of making life better and fuller for them now. Some more tourism, yes, but also social change, better farming, sea fishing, "water farming" (in particular, rainbow trout and oysters) and small industry. In such ways the decline in population might be stopped. The more picturesque of rocks, plants, animals, birds, and of life on the crofts are mainly Mr Mercer's own work.

Mr Anson's affectionate account, illustrated by his delicate line drawings, of the fishing communities of the Scottish east coast is a new edition of a work which was first welcomed 35 years ago.

Iverach McDonald

The Oldest Road
An Exploration of the Ridgeway
By J. R. L. Anderson
(Wildwood House, £2.50)

Roads are the most enduring works of man and few lead farther back into history than the Ridgeway between Avebury Down in Wiltshire and Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire. The ancient track follows the chalk downs for 85 miles and has a fair claim to be considered the oldest road in Europe. Men and women of the old Stone Age walked it long before Britain was an island. Some 250,000 years ago Swanscombe Woman, one of the earliest hominids, left her skull in the gravel of what is now the Thames estuary. It was then a tributary of the Rhine. It was a truly High Road across southern England clear of the dangers in the dense wooded valleys.

J. R. L. Anderson and Fay Godwin have produced a guide to the Ridgeway designed for a generously sized pocket which will lead anyone with moderately stout legs along the path of the Ridgeway which itself is now designated and signposted by the Countryside Commission. *The Oldest Road* gives a vivid, transdimensional perspective of history. You are no longer shackled within three generations, the authors write. You walk in the footsteps of 300 generations seeing the same rounded hills, the same sky and tripping perhaps over the same stone that subdued a human toe 20,000 years ago.

Most travellers along the Ridgeway leave no written record of their lives, but they left clear evidence about themselves. There are flintworkings that were major industrial undertakings 5,000 years ago, with pots, beakers, loom weights and other tools which were once in everyday use. "Descend to a village and you may see a man thatching a cottage roof, practising an art devised to keep out rain long before Rome was heard of. You get a wonderfully whole perception of the persistence and continuity of life."

The road runs along past the great stone circle of Avebury, the huge ditch of the Wansdyke, footprints merging with those of shadowy neolithic peasants, rich beaker merchants, the soldiers of Ambrosius and their Saxon enemies, the Normans and every

generation which fused to produce the English of the twentieth century. The book investigates Selsey Hill and describes the mysteries of the west Kennet longbarrow.

The way winds between more bumps, barrows and ditches of great historic significance, and raises some questions about which archaeologists still argue. Why, for example, the book asks, do the Iron Age forts face north, when the most likely enemy would appear from the continent to the south?

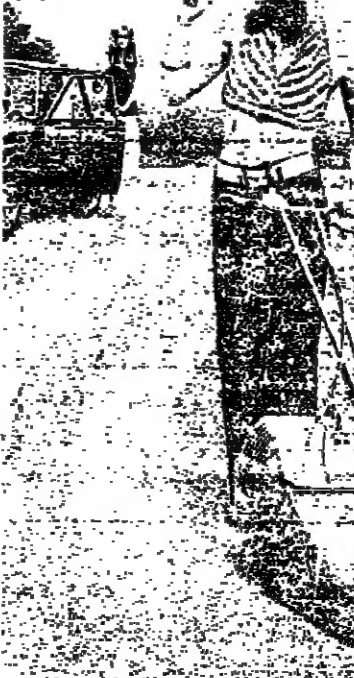
Perhaps it is hard now to look at the Ridgeway in terms of military fortifications or a life-line through dangerous terrain especially when the countryside is peacefully moulded and kept trim by tractors. The *Chest Road* frequently dips off the Ridgeway proper to investigate points of interest near by. It cautions would-be travellers to be well victualled and, ideally, prepared to sleep out under the stars. Doubtless the footfall of palaeolithic man and the sinister history of the Ridgeway would then take on an even more vivid edge. Overall, this is an excellently presented, well illustrated and invaluable guide to one of the most fascinating walks in Britain.

Ronald Faux

A further feature, concentrating on travel books for abroad, will be published in the Saturday Review in June.

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Clive Barnes/New York Notebook
Sounds of the city

cult to compare music-life in New York although only more publicizing in those in any other mid. As far as the slight have, the slight suspect that y have, slightly, aces of opera an does London. has more cham- trical, and prob- stral concers. is not have, so orchestras as is really only the libramonic per- d here—but is more visiting least those from the United States. nra is a pretty not at all sure it fits in with the first 10, per- in the first 20, musical director, under its con- Leonard Bern- and wonderful.

even in the muffled and muted acoustics of the Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Centre, which are so muffled and muted that the place is about to be degenerated and rebuilt inside in the hope of making the hall sound more like a hall and less like a swimming bath.

Although the Philharmonic sounds good under both Boulez and Bernstein, most of New York seems to prefer the warmer, more engaging music-making of Bernstein. Bernstein is a New York figure—musician and city were made for one another. Last week he was conducting Tchaikovsky's Fourth and accompanying Rostropovich (nowadays a New Yorker bred although not born) in the Schumann cello concerto. Bernstein was at his most over- lapping in the Tchaikovsky he danced up and down on the podium in a manner which in younger, stricter days I found infuriating but now, for some reason, find endearing. Un- questionably it produces ripples for the orchestra swept into the symphony like cavalrymen and lovers. It was most impressive, but still less impressive than the beautiful performance of the Schumann concerto that had preceded it. Both Rostropovich and Bernstein envisaged the

concerto as smallscale (with impossibly during pauses and pianissimos) and quite essentially romantic. The result was ravishing—you left the concert by cloud rather than subway.

This opera season has not come to an end, with the New York City Opera finishing this weekend, while the Metropolitan Opera left on tour last week-end. The entire field is now left open for the dancers, although the Bolshoi Opera will be coming in for a month at the end of June—which is very exciting.

The City Opera seems to have had a moderate season. This part of the season (the "com- pany's season" in two sections) as it shares its house with the New York City Ballet included three notable new productions, *Salome*, *Idomeneo* and, rather curiously, *Die tote Stadt*. The *Salome* was attractive to look at. It had been staged by Ian Stras- fogel, with sets and projections by Douglas W. Schmidt, and the inspiration was *Indes- tructible* art, particularly the paintings of Gustave Moreau. In New York it was regarded as rather shocking, but remem- ber this is a city that did not see the 1949 Covent Garden production by Salvador Dali and Peter Brook. The perform-

ance I heard was moderately well sung—Eileen Schaefer was not a dominating *Salome* but most sensuously conducted by Juss Radel.

Mr. Rudel was also the hero of the performance I heard of *Idomeneo*, which is rare in the United States. The score was said to be based on Daniel Hepler's 1972 edition, but the musicologists gave it hell. It was an unnecessarily static pro- duction and the singing lacked that sweetness and clarity that can make this opera such a transcendent kind of pleasure. The voices did not soar and float.

The production of the Kor- gold was a curious business from many aspects. Why *Die tote Stadt*? The answer is simple, and clearly explained in the program. The produc- tion has been subsidized by Carl Von Gontard, and Mr. Von Gontard quite clearly wanted to hear *Die tote Stadt*. The opera was first performed in 1920, when the composer was 23. A year later it was given at the Metropolitan Opera, with Jerizita, and had not been seen in New York since. Korngold himself emigrated to the United States before the Second World War and in 1957 died in Holly- wood, where he had been a suc-

cessful composer of background music for the movies. *Die tote Stadt* is his only surviving work of any consequence and it is not, unfortunately, of much consequence.

The opera is based on a popu- lar novel of its period by George Rodenbach, called *Bruges-la-Morte*. The score is post-Romantic, lush and luxu- riant, but what gives the pro- duction its quite extraordinary interest is the way it has been staged, using film and projec- tions alongside painted sets and singers. The result is stunning, genuinely like nothing seen in opera before, and as pure theatre by far the most techni- cally exciting thing to be in New York City. The produc- tion has been conceived by Frank Corsaro and Ronald Case, and Mr. Corsaro has directed it while Mr. Case has provided the films and projec- tions. The scenery is by Joan Larky.

Corsaro and Case have worked together before, most notably in their beautifully im- pressive staging last season of Delius's *A Village Romeo and Juliet*. Yes, nothing can prepare one for the visual im- pacts that, for example, bring the city of Bruges swirling

around a living room, are in- describably interesting. This has to be a new road for opera- tion. One can so easily en- visage a Ring produced in this fashion that would, in its stagcraft, be a perfect realiza- tion of the Wagnerian dream of total theatre.

It is a commonly held belief in New York that the City Opera thrives on production values, whereas the Metropoli- tan is a golden cage for silver- voiced canaries. Like most com- monly held beliefs it is partly true, but only partly. A friend and colleague of mine from Vienna, here briefly on a visit, saw about three Met produc- tions, was rather disappointed by the singing, but was most impressed by the stagings, and all but overwhelmed by the conducting of the Met's musical director, young James Levine.

It is now two seasons since Sir Rudolph Bing retired, and it must be admitted that despite severe financial diffi- culties, the Met has come a long way in those two years. Bing was clearly a good administrator, but artistically the house seems a great deal better off without him. Now, says one who has heard standard operas often surprisingly well done. The other week I caught

an absolutely splendid *La forza del destino* with Lucine Amara, Jon Vickers and Cornell MacNeil. It was an old (dating back to 1952) production with Berman settings that had this season been restaged by John Dexter with excellent results. The conductor was once again the admirable Levine, who is a very hard worker, and clearly dedicated to raising the musical standards of his opera house.

Of course, the event of the Met season for most New York operagoers was the final and belated Met debut of Beverly Sills. Like Bernstein, Miss Sills is a New York legend. She could walk down Broadway and hand the people in the street could recognize her. She is adored in a special way that New York sometimes bestows upon certain artists—the dancer Erik Bruhn is another who springs to mind as is the actress Julie Harris. For years Bing had feuded with Miss Sills, and she never sang at the Met. Now in Rossini's *The Siege of Corinth* that personal siege was raised.

Some of the first night notices—while properly adula- tory—had a slightly disquieting undertone to them, and it does seem that Miss Sills was not in

her very best voice. She is basically a lyric soprano (her Maron in the Massenet is the loveliest since Victoria de Los Angeles) who has become a bel canto coloratura. But she can pull off the Donizetti, Bellini and Rossini with enormous panache (we call it chutzpah here) and a rare degree of ex- citement. I caught the opera's last performance of the season, and she was singing beautifully with scarcely a hint of strain. Equally impressive was Shirley Verrett in the *travestie* role of Neocle, and the spirited com- ducting of Thomas Schippers, a conductor we hear far too little of at the Met. The version used came in for much the same musicalistic flak that had been levelled at the City Opera's *Idomeneo*, but although Sandro Sequi's staging was as good as enough, the sets and costumes by Nicola Benois, all adapted from the staging at La Scala, Milan, did seem to suggest opulence with fairly modest means. The latter is a pressing need at the Met these days.

When I wrote about Edward Bond's *The Sea*, I suggested that Vivien Merchant played the lead and of course was Coral Browne. My apologies to both ladies.

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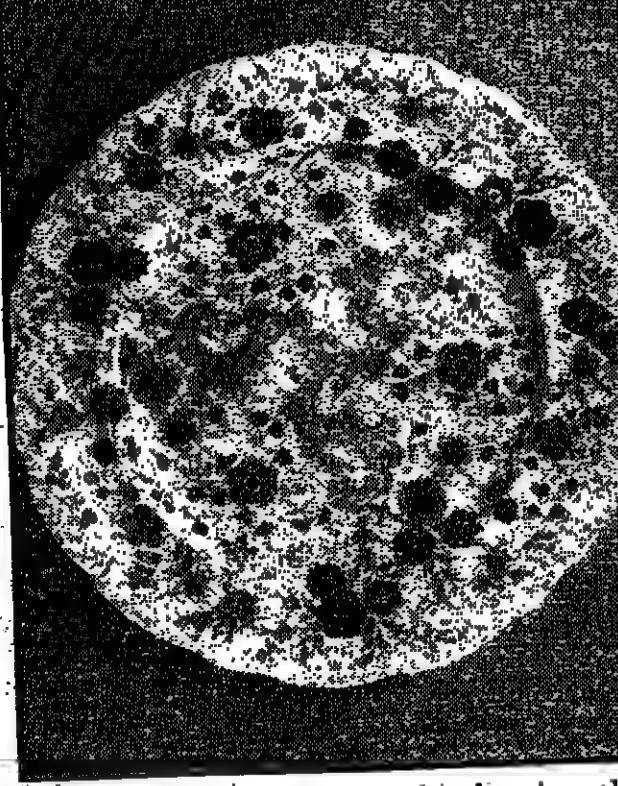
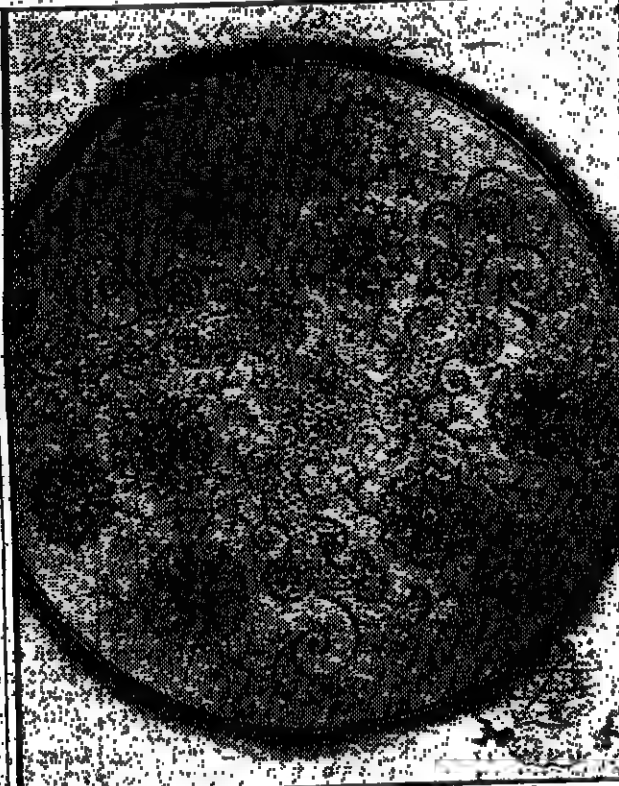
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Antiques

Handed to us on a plate



Left, design No 63 from the William Ridgway factory pattern book, showing the anchor and urn mark with the identifying initials "WR & Co" and the name of the pattern, "Helical". Right, an earthenware plate, c 1845-50, bearing pattern No 103, "Flosculous" and printed on the back with the urn and anchor mark and the initials "WR & Co"

It is sweet to see an expert confounded, and even sweeter to prove him wrong himself. One could not help enjoying the discomfiture of the *Swinging Magazine* when they discovered that when they discovered that the "Vermeers" they had praised to the skies were forgeries by Van Meegeren. The exposure of the Philistine skull caused a violent flap- ping in the scientific do- cuments, though nothing to com- pare with the great Darwin debate in the newly com- pleted University Museum at Oxford in 1860, as well de- scribed by the Rev W. Tuck- well in his *Reminiscences*.

The attack on Darwin's book was to be led by the Bishop of Oxford, and Huxley was to lead the defence. The Bishop came through the dease crowd to his place upon the plat- form, his face no longer refined and spiritual as in the early Richmond por- trait; coarsened somewhat, even plebeianized, by advancing years, but re- sourceful, pugnacious, im- pregnable, not a little arrogant. On the chair- man's other side sat Hux- ley, hair jet black and thick, slight whiskers, pale full fleshy face, the two strong lines of later years already marked, an ominous quiver in his mouth and an arrow ready to come out of it.

Bishop Wilberforce, argu- mentative, rhetorical, argu- ing "plagiarism from a mountebank expressing the disquietude" he should feel was a "venerable age" to be shown him as his ances- tress at the Zoo." Huxley rose, "white with anger," to so eminent a prelate, but for myself I would rather be descended from an ape than from a divine who em- ploys authority to stifle the truth."

In September 1866 I covered for *The Times* another ferocious debate in Oxford—the International Congress of Byzantine Studies, at

which Dr D. M. Metcalf, of the Ashmolean Museum, accused Mr Philip Grierson, one of the two main speak- ers, of "sacrificing accuracy in a campaign of personal criticism." In his paper on coinage Mr Grierson had suggested that Dr Metcalf had attributed a group of hyperpata of Alexius to Trebizond largely on the ground that one specimen had been found in Georgia. In fact, Dr Metcalf claimed, the deduction was based on a whole hoard of coins. Mr Grierson, "apologized pro- foundly" for his error. My report appeared under the lurid headlines: *Hard Words Among Numismatists*.

The greater the expert, the greater the pleasure in catching him out. As the compilers of *The Stuffed Owl* book of bad verse wrote in their 1930 introduction: "When some dignified headline 'personage', all eminent Academic, a gaitered Divine, an important Actor-Manager, a prominent Financier, slides on a scrap of banana-peel in the street and suddenly pre- sents his western facade to the shuddering stuns, the impact on the sensations of a thoughtful observer is more tremendous than if formed by a nobody, some urchin, some shabby man of letters, some threadbare saint.

They, of course, were re- lating this thought to poets glissade, the more imposing the glissade, the more charac- teristic, particularly Victorian ceramics, the grandest and most unassailable figure is Mr Geoffrey Godden. To catch him out is rather like catching out W. G. Grace. Therefore I would rather be descended from an ape than from a divine who em- ploys authority to stifle the truth."

In his book on *Ridgway Pottery* (Barrie & Jenkins, 1972, 55), Mr Godden illus-

trates design No 63 from the lactory pattern book (shown here left), describing it as "the only printed pattern in- cluded" in the book. The pattern is called *Helical*. Early this year, however, I bought for £7.50 in the Hamp- stead Antiques Emporium two Ridgway plates bearing a similar printed pattern called *Flosculous*, the blue printed design being touched in the 1790s to make his fortune in the Staffordshire pottery. He and his sons were devout Methodists—as were so many other potters of the industrial revolution period in the Potteries. No pre-1800 products of the Ridgway fac- tory are known. The early products were certainly earthenware—Godden illus- trates a handsome blue-printed earthenware basket of the early nineteenth cen- tury—but in 1808, the year in which John took his two sons John and William into partnership, porcelain was added to pottery in the fac- tory's productions. The early impressed Ridgway mark changed to Ridgway and Sons.

John and William Ridgway continued the Cauldon Place works (conveniently situated on the banks of the Cauldon Canal) after their father's death, trading under the joint names J & W. Ridg- way. The two brothers finally parted in about 1830. John continuing the Cauldon works, while William had the other Bell works formerly owned by their uncle John's quality and he became Potter to Queen Victoria, using the royal arms as a mark. William Ridgway subse- quently ported at the Church Works, High Street, Hanley, using the WR & C mark which is on the base of my plates. Mr Godden bought the pattern book which was used at this factory after 1830, containing coloured designs from No 1 to No 196. William Ridgway ported until 1854; his son Edward John (1814-96) and grandson John (1843) also entered the business, and Ridgway became, with Wedgwood and Spode, one of the great pot- ting dynasties of the Five Towns.

Bevis Hillier

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IMPORTANT

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Total shake-up of the Liberals' organization will be called for today

How close to bankruptcy is the Liberal Party?

A confidential report predicting that the Liberal Party could soon be both politically and financially bankrupt will form the basis of a long and bitter argument today when the Liberal Party's National Executive meets in London.

The report has been prepared by Mr Richard Wainwright, MP for Colne Valley, who as a former chairman of the party is much respected by the Liberals' rank and file. He suggests that several top professionals who have worked for many years must go in a total shake-up of the party's organization. His report warns: "I firmly believe that the Liberal Party is heading for a financial breakdown which could be just as disastrous to the party's reputation as a serious and competent body as was the financial breakdown of 1969."

Since last October's election, the Liberal Party has lost all of its big financial backers, including Richard Wainwright himself and Liberal peer, Lord Beaumont. The Rothermere Trust, which gave more than £100,000 last year, has cut its donations to the party completely.

Mr Wainwright says the reason is the party's headquarters. He says "the present form of headquarters is a positive deterrent to large money raising. Not one of those Liberals who have raised five-figure donations in recent years feels justified in seeking further large amounts for the present headquarters organization."

In a devastating indictment of the executive's management of Liberal headquarters, the report speaks of "chaos", "decline" and "a lack of confidence". For although in the two general elections last year Mr Thorpe had to install his own organization, appointments to the party's executive have been unsatisfactory preparation, it is the executive who are the supreme body responsible for the way the party is run.

Although only a small number have seen advance copies of Mr Wainwright's investigation, the report has caused controversy within the party. Serious opposition has been mounted by the staff, reduced from 33 to 18 earlier this year. The staff say there is a very low

level of morale but are confident they can get Mr Wainwright's report thrown out.

What Mr Wainwright proposes is a total remodelling of the party along the lines of the Canadian Liberal Party. There would be a small, highly professional central staff coordinating the main body of work which would be carried out by regional organizations. The party divides the country into 13 separate areas, but at present only five have full time staff and an office. Mr Wainwright says the party must put into practice its own policy of devolution, with more power to the provinces.

There has been growing disquiet among rank and file Liberals concerning the party's leadership. Here, Mr Wainwright spells out in a postscript to his report: "Those who have all too often found the Party's leadership to be a motley collection of hectic and distracted MPs should now expect a business-like office determined to build up two-way mutual help." But there are also other changes in the offing.

Mr David Steel has been anxious to take a break from his post of Chief Whip, a position he will have held for five years in June. His deputy, Mr Cyril Smith, who has a number of plans to improve the party's impact, is tipped to take over this summer.

However, one MP has met the criticism head on. In a recent speech, Mr John Pardon said: "At present the Liberal Party is in danger of writing itself off. It is as though our present lack of parliamentary votes has embarrassed us into silence. Whatever the scribbles in the Press Gallery may think, there is much more to politics than parliamentary mathematics and the vote at ten o'clock. It is time for us to emerge from our self-imposed exile."

Mr Pardon has been the only MP "beating the drum" in recent months and in a series of rallying speeches is making a name for himself as an original thinker in the manner of Mr Jo Grimond's fiery speeches of the 1960s. "Unless we regain faith in ourselves, our mission and our message,

who can blame others for losing faith in us," he says. "We must realize that the kind of people and the kind of organization required to run a pale imitation of an establishment party are not those required to run a radical, campaigning crusade."

Mr Pardon said that because Liberal MPs feel that representative democracy is seriously threatened, they have renewed their enthusiasm for a change in the electoral system with increased vigour. Earlier this year, at the initiative of Mr Thorpe, Mr Pardon, Mr Steel and Mr Smith quietly approached 40 of the country's leading industrialists to win support for their enthusiasm for the long-term stability that proportional representation could provide.

Mr Pardon says Gladstone made it clear that nothing can be achieved in politics without passion, "and there can be no passion without anger." Both passion and a lot of anger are qualities which will no doubt be much in evidence when the Liberal Party meets today to take decisions on its future.

Philip Young

George Hutchinson

The Labour faithful still leave a doubt on EEC

We shall know the measure of defeat by tonight, while recognizing beforehand that today's special conference of the Labour Party will reject the Government's European policy and solicit a No vote in the June referendum. Thereby the movement in favour of withdrawal from the EEC can be expected to gain further ground, if only among the Labour faithful. After an earlier decline, it was probably gathering strength already, whatever the opinion polls may suggest—and as a guide to voting intentions they cannot be considered reliable in the light of recent experience.

If that is correct, what is the explanation? One reason, perhaps, is the lucid and persuasive character of last Sunday's statement by Mr Benn, Mr Foot, Mrs Castle and three other dissenting ministers, in which they put forward a programme for what they called "independence" and secession. Dialectically, they may be— they are open to challenge. But I am trying to judge the likely electoral effect, not the intrinsic logic, the intellectual or technical merits, of what they were advocating with such clarity and simplicity of expression—and with such an air of conviction into the bargain. To say the least, it would be surprising if their words had no popular appeal.

On the contrary, they have an affinity with a national instinct of some force. However strange or imprudent their sentiments may seem to proponents of the EEC, and deep-seated feeling which is to be found among people of every political allegiance (or none) and will receive calculable testimony on June 5. Another and perhaps more important reason for thinking that the outcome of the referendum must still be in doubt is the very weight and vehemence of Conservative support for the EEC, allied to that of Big Business. If a party can lose a general election without a year's defeat, it is a party which has a recently repudiated its policies, it is expected to look to it for guidance a few months later, even under new management, or pay much attention to its advice. In the past, the Conservative Party has been the Westminster they have little influence to speak of.

In parliamentary Westminster—arithmetic, Conservative (and Liberal) support is vital to the success of Mr Wilson's European policy. It may other wise prove unhelpful. While the weight of probability may remain on the side of acceptance, Mr Wilson has no sure grounds for confidence.

It was Mr Benn who first advocated a referendum. One ironic effect of the Government's refusal to extend the vote to British citizens living abroad is that many of Mr Benn's old Bristol constituents will have no say. They are to be found in Concordia.

Treasurers of political parties have to exercise care, discretion and restraint when offered contributions to promote particular ends rather than general purposes. Many a prospective donation has been declined because strings were attached to it. This is invariably so when the object is to secure a party's acceptance of some policy which its leaders have not previously adopted and may on reflection reject.

Every party is familiar with the moneyed supporter who says "I will give you so much if you promise to do such and such", pressing for some innovation close to his heart. However worthy the motive may be, treasurers are not supposed to.

countenance that sort of though they are frequently faced with it.

The Tory treasurers, Chelmer, Lord Ashdown, Mr William Clark—may have the painful duty of counting the one of the number of important businessmen who are ready to subscribe to party funds (dangerously low) if the servants will support principle of proportional representation.

This follows a recent m at which (as I reported last week) Mr Jeremy Thorpe, leader of the business are themselves. Conserving their party lead in the campaign for the election of PR as a means ensuring the return to meat of more Liberal support to the business electoral reform, he said the Labour left was left remain in the ascendancy.

From all accounts his mood was well received though purists may chide other reasons for reform. Mrs Thatcher has a shown little if any interest in proportional representation and may not be immediately sympathetic to the concept, is a person with an open however. She is a pragmatist rather than doctrinaire dogmatist.

As she was speaking to other day, speaking her policies will not be out in a headlong rush, every single one of them exactly defined. Thatcher understands the gers of undue attachment entering office, to a p ceived programme which prove unsuited to prevail circumstances. In this respect attitude reminds one of Harold Macmillan, and Macleod.

With the underlying stability and security, than growth, her policies evolve after careful deliberation her colleagues in Shadow Cabinet. It is a myth that she is dominant the exclusion of all other influences, by Sir Keith or Mr Edward de Cuman. Si a stronger political inst and a vastly greater capacity—than some of around her. After all, the hope, as well as the ment on which she was el leader.

Even so, I am not sure Mr Benn and others can count on Mrs Thatcher's port for electoral reform. I that poor Lord Chelmer, I Ashdown and Mr Clark have to say No to some of would-be contributors. I would be a disastrous experience, and not only for them.

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Sportsview

Typically English, but the power-play is American

In tennis, as in golf, the rigorous and richly rewarding American professional circuit is too conspicuous to escape attention yet, for most Europeans, too remote to invite it. Distance may lend enchantment to the view. It may also do the opposite. But it is certainly remarkable for British tennis players to emerge near the top of the heap after all the rough and tumble of the year's early indoor competition.

Virginia Wade and Mark Cox have done it. Like Fred Perry before them, they seem to be attuned to the bustling, impatient tempo of the American game. It was at Forest Hills that the first sprout of promise almost decade ago, in the years between they have continued to play most of their best tennis in the United States.

Last month Miss Wade won successive tournaments at Dallas and Philadelphia. In the process she lost only one set in five matches. Her victims included Christine Evert, Billie Jean King, Yvonne Goolagong, Olga Morosova and Martina Navratilova.

Miss Navratilova had to retire from the third set of the Dallas final with a sore ankle. She avenged that defeat by beating Miss Wade in the semi-final round of the circuit's climax, the Virginia Slims championship in Los Angeles (a £62,500 event for the 50 players who, to borrow the parlance of golf, made the cut). Miss Wade beat Miss Goolagong in an abbreviated play-off to finish third behind Miss Evert and Miss Navratilova. In her first 11 tournaments in America this year Miss Wade won almost £37,000.

March was a big month for Cox, too. In four weeks he won three tournaments. The first of these, at the Albert Hall, did not count in the World Championship Tennis points table. But it gave Cox the confidence he needed to win WCT tournaments at Washington and Atlanta. His victims included Stan Smith, twice, John Alexander, twice, Richard Stockton and Cliff Richey.

In four previous years Cox had won only one WCT tournament. But those March successes launched him on the road to Dallas for the £41,500 WCT play-off series, from May 7-11. We do not yet know if he has "made the eight". In 1972 Cox qualified for the Roman climax of an interim WCT tour and in 1973 he scored as many WCT points as Roger Taylor, but Taylor went to Dallas because he had the better head-to-head record. Taylor was beaten in the first round by Ken Rosewall. But their five-set match lasted three hours and six minutes. It is doubtful if Taylor has ever played so well for so long under so much pressure. In that sense it may have been the finest performance of his career.

It is no disrespect to Cox to point out that this year's WCT circuit is weaker than last year's. Newcombe, Nastase and

Kodes played in Dallas then, but have not competed this time. Vilas was ill. Kodes and Taylor preferred the less demanding competitive schedule of the Independent Players' Association circuit run by James Connors' manager, William F. Riordan. The American women's tour has merged. But the men still go their separate ways.

Riordan has an answer for everything. The loosely knit IPA is his alternative to the bigger, busier and better organized Association of Tennis Professionals. The IPA circuit has been scornfully dismissed as "Mickey Mouse league" starting Connors and supporting cast. But it has shown a remarkable capacity for survival and in time could rival the WCT circuit, as well as reflecting its format.

WCT revolutionized the professional game. The circuit's slick organization and concern for the financial and physical well-being of the competitors has attracted immense respect from the players. The tour's climax at Dallas has become one of the half dozen biggest landmarks in the calendar.

Considered in conjunction with the three months of qualifying tournaments, Dallas has some claim to be more difficult to win than any other tournament. The previous winners were Rosewall (twice), Smith and Newcombe. Qualifying to take part in that splendid tennis festival is, in itself, an awfully satisfying experience.

Cox-like Miss Wade—can look back on the spring of 1975 as a time of solid achievement in a hotly competitive environment. It is no surprise that they approached the respective peaks simultaneously because they have always had a lot in common.

They were born in July. Both are university graduates who took the full-time tennis in 1965. The following year they played for Britain for the first time in the Davis Cup and Federation Cup competitions. In 1968 they had leading roles in the first open tournament, at Wimbledon. That year, too, Miss Wade won the United States championship—in which Cox had caused a stir two years earlier with a straight sets win over Tony Roche, then champion of France and Italy.

Cox and Miss Wade both play a restlessly aggressive game featuring power rather than subtlety. Both have appeared in 12 British rankings lists but so far they have been too sensitive to public expectation to excel at Wimbledon. A final link between them is that most foreigners tend to regard them as typically English in their somewhat diffident and reserved gentility. That may, up to a point, be true. But their tennis is American.

Rex Bellamy

Tennis correspondent



Mark Cox and Virginia Wade: attuned to the bustling tempo of the American game.



attuned to the bustling tempo of the American game.

The strange upbringing that made Queen Christina despise being a woman

Second in an occasional series on women as rulers

We see Queen Christina of Sweden through Greta Garbo, a beautiful, romantic, tragic figure, isolated and unhappy, but fundamentally a true woman, capable of being awakened to love. The more recent film with Liv Ullmann, concentrating as it does on what was probably Christina's only successful heterosexual relationship, reinforces this image. Despite Georgina Masson's magnificent biography Christina is visualized as beautiful and womanly; reality was different.

As a queen Christina was a wild and unqualified failure. As a person she cannot be seen as a great success. The only child of Gustavus Adolphus, Queen at five years old, Christina was, at her father's request, given the education of a prince: at her birth he had said: "I hope that this girl will be worth a son to me" and he seems to have been determined to make her so. Her plain face and the deformed shoulder which prevented her compensating for her lack of beauty, were additional factors in her rejection of feminine values.

In Christina the struggle for reconciliation between the woman and the ruler was not resolved. Yet as a ruler she had a much easier situation to face than Elizabeth I. There was little hostility to the idea of a woman occupying the Swedish throne; as Gustavus Adolphus's daughter she was acceptable to the country. Her Chancellor, Axel Oxenstierna, was one of the ablest of contemporary statesmen. An attractive husband was available: her cousin, Charles Gustav, who succeeded her as Charles X. Advised by Oxenstierna she was an efficient, though not a great, ruler, and there was much opposition to her abdication: it took her a great deal of astute manoeuvring over a number of years.

Christina's upbringing, however, seems to have rendered her unable to accept the type of role-playing compromise by which Elizabeth I rendered the dichotomy between her sex and her status acceptable to her people and to herself. Raised as a prince, instilled with masculine values, she had a male attitude to women, despising them, although capable of having love affairs with them, although Christina's devotion to shocking the convention must be remembered.

She does seem to have been open about her homosexual relationship with her favourite, Countess Ebba Sparre. Marriage would have been intolerable, not only because of her sexual proclivities, but because it would have involved an admission that she was, after all, only a woman.

Christina's interests and pursuits were typically masculine. Her fondness for riding may have arisen from the fact that she was seen at her best on horseback, but her passion for scholarship and culture, especially the culture of Italy, was shared by the gentlemen rather than the ladies of her court; unlike Elizabeth I she had no circle of intellectual women from which to draw her friends. Her education instilled in her the idea that to be a prince was to be magnificent, as great in deeds and spirit as in worldly position, but just as her masculine education prevented her from coming to terms with her female body, that same body prevented her from achieving the ideal of the prince.

It is unique in the history of London town-planning. This is not only because the degree of royal patronage is unusual in London, for so long managed by the Board of Works, but also because it was a self-consciously architectural scheme, without doubt inspired by the demands of traffic, and the desire for profitable development of Crown property, but carried out with due regard for the elegance of the individual buildings and the opportunity for metropolitan improvement" as a principle.

Pickler - Muskau praised Regent Street in the 1820s, and wrote of the country being much indebted to "poor Mr Nash" for "conceiving and executing such gigantic designs". Nash's countrymen were less kind, and he was the subject of a number of cartoons, of which the kindest was that of him on the steeple "All Souls' Church. It was another foreigner, the great Victorian journalist George Augustus Sala, who left the best descriptions of the Victorian Regent Street in its heyday. He lodged as a child in Regent Street, with his mother, a well-known concert singer. The lodgings over the shops intended by Nash for the use of



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international statesman (it is interesting that she seems to have undervalued and resented him—understandably so). The fact that she must be the dam and not the sire of any future heir made her, with her hysterical revulsion from pregnancy, reluctant to accept a dynastic role.

Her attempts to function as a humanist patron were pathetic and unsuccessful. The scholars of Europe were slow in responding to invitations from the barbaric north, and the one major scholar she did attract, the aged Descartes, arrived in Sweden only to die of cold; a death probably accelerated by the queen's insistence on meeting him for intellectual discussions in her inadequately heated library at five o'clock on January mornings.

The only way in which Christina could prove herself a truly magnificent being was to follow the example of the Emperor Charles V and abdicate: the renunciation of power has always been accepted as the greatest of human gestures, showing a truly saintly ability to evaluate and reject what is usually considered the summit of human ambition. Christina deter-

mined, in a truly imperial relinquishment, to secure her lasting fame. In the achievement of her ambition she demonstrated a perseverance and a political astuteness which did her instructors credit, but which were not in evidence in her private life.

That the motive for her abdication was at least partly a desire for earthly glory may be deduced from the fact that, unlike Charles V Christina did not retire from the world to make her soul, rather she entered the Mediterranean world from which she had felt herself exiled, and everywhere she went she demanded to be greeted with the ceremonies and respect due to a reigning monarch, rather than a retired monarch. Her pathetic attempts to regain the power she had renounced, with her candidacy for the thrones of Naples and Poland (when the Bishop of Poznan heard of the latter he crossed himself in horror), show how little satisfaction Christina's great gesture ultimately brought her.

At the time, however, it seemed a liberation, and a liberation not only from the burden of rule but from the burden of femininity. On the first stage of her journey south from Sweden she cut her hair and assumed man's clothes, and an adaptation of masculine costume was to be her preferred dress for the remainder of her life. One of the latest portraits shows her, stout and eccentric, wearing a hideously unbecoming jacket over a knee-length skirt, with a man's shirt and shoes, her hair gathered into youthful bunches which do little for her chubby face.

The other freedom her abdication gave her was, of course, religious, but her Catholicism, however glad the Church was to welcome her as its most distinguished convert, was hardly orthodox. Casual remarks show her tolerant and sceptical to the point of free thinking, and later episodes, the murder of Monaldeschi, suggest that religion gave place to other considerations. The spiritual freedom Rome gave her was not religious but cultural. Freed from the burden of rule she was accepted as a queen; now that she was in the secular world she wanted her for a patron, and with Archangelo she seems to have achieved, for a time at least, some sort of sexual harmony.

Jean Wilson

Dr. Wilson is a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge.

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Regent Street

Life in the Quadrant, full voices and a tenor giving chase

Ironically, it was the very success of John Nash's scheme for a great West End shopping street that made the destruction of his architecture inevitable

provincial bachelors were fairly rapidly taken over by Italian and German musical artists. They were drawn to London "less by inclination for the climate and respect for the institutions of England, than by a profound admiration for the circular effigies, in gold (with milled edges), of the Quadrant."

Their presence at the Quadrant end of the street added greatly to the liveliness of the street scene, particularly while the balconies provided by the Colonnade still stood. On these, according to Sala, the tenor from the Italian Opera House could be seen, knife in hand,

pursuing his wife in her night-dress, or an entire Austrian children's choir seen rehearsing, while on a more mundane plane German basses and Italian vocalists could be heard practising.

In the 1950s, Regent Street was the heart of musical London. It was as essential for a musical notoriety to see and to be seen in Regent Street as for a betting man to climb his boot-heels upon the nobly stones of Messrs Tattersall's yard. Close as it was to the foreign colony in Soho, Regent Street was also the "locality par excellence, for foreigners to open brilliant shops for the sale

of perfumes, gloves, cambric pocket-handkerchiefs, Vanille chocolate, ermine cloaks, Surabaya pies, St-Julien claret, and patent leather boots."

This concentration of foreign tradesmen first established Regent Street as the Mecca of shoppers in the 1860s. It was the "very centre of fashion", and with its show of fine carriages and gay company formed one of the sights of London.

It is however in the 1870s that many familiar Regent Street names begin to emerge, and it was then that started the consolidation of the original small shops into the great stretches of plate glass under single large owners. First the shops, boutiques in modern parlance, specialising in perfumes or lace, or corsets, or shawls, grew into the large "warehouses", and then developed into the comprehensive department store.

The first department store in London on the French model appeared in the 1870s, but the Regent Street shops had to make do with their Nash buildings until the lease fell in. Firms like Swan and Edgar, Liberty, and Dickins and Jones occupied a number of houses in the street, not always adjacent, under very makeshift conditions.

"The little shops of the RIBA was sold in 1894, 'once so ample, had to take in not only the back parlours, but every inch of the back gardens; what

had been kitchen-offices, now warehouse basements as the residential accommodation."

With their miserable stair were either utilized for rooms and storage, or contemptuously for what would fetch. . . . The fall of a street was a familiar lament; but here was a street with a vengeance.

Ironically, it was this "success of Nash's scheme great West End shopping which made the destruction of his architecture inevitable. Regent Street had become a soul centre of frivolous living, it was bursting with its elegant Regency dress. Architectural writers deplored the destruction of the finest stretches of architecture in London, but the shopkeepers, and the lords, the Crown Estate, adamant—Regent Street is to be rebuilt.

Fortunately it was with some care both for technical unity and elegance we still have an architect masterpiece. Perhaps if a scheme had not been so successful we might still have our own street!

Hermione Hobbs
The author's book, *A Visit to Regent Street*, is published by Queen Anne Press, £4.25 (soft cover).
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ULSTER PREPARES TO VOTE AGAIN

ers of Northern Ireland to the polls once again, to elect this institutional convention, a parliament, a legislature, but a convention for the one and a vote for the other, a future form of provincial government and making relations, if it can be the first at Westminster, reported to be some in the minds of electors to whether this new which they are invited same old political faces ash or fowl; and there to be an unwelcome of interest in the effect is a poor turnout of Sinn Féin alone with the for the instructions given are to stay the polls.

admission

vention was conceived ruins of the Sunning. a little less than a The decision then counted to an acknowl- that the 1973 constitu- not be made to work- the claim made by s of the general strike sibly elected before ngdale agreement was id not reflect the dis- political forces in the after the signature of ment. And it marked mission on the part of rament that, heavy rom Whitehall having ing the warring politi- ister to common con- ground, they might as alone to see if they d by themselves, s and his colleagues ment are certainly am alone. The conven- is an exclusively air, apart from the of three Green Papers 1, the question before ion, all of the utmost and apart from a by the Prime Minister hoping for proposals broadly tolerable to nities in Northern d acceptable to parlia- tion at Westminster. have refrained from t the limits of accept- they see them, and ing out the conse- failure. The latter sen left to Mr Brian (his new party is candidates), who has are to speak the e—a repudiation of e in order to separate s which would have melves incapable of rangements for living ut even he has not

been making much of that penalty for failure, which is by no means the only possible one. But the reluctance of ministers has not, so far as is known, been answered by any visible sign that organized political opinion in Ulster is more ready to compromise on essentials. Rather the reverse. Such signs were hardly to be expected while mortal vendettas have been raging between bands of pseudo-political gangsters, and while it is hard to be confident that the Provisional IRA will last any longer than it takes them to have Long Kesh cleared of detainees. Also it is hard for unionists, who are bound to see law enforcement as the most urgent necessity, to think cooperative thoughts about the Social Democratic and Labour Party so long as it withholds its political endorsement from the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Just as it is hard for the SDLP to give that endorsement now, when it is one of its best bargaining counters at the negotiating table which is being prepared.

The crux of the matter is once again "power sharing", a formal arrangement which ensures that, so long as politics in Ulster are sectarian, elected representatives of both sects shall sit in the provincial government. It was practised during the brief life of the executive which was formed under the 1973 constitution. It worked quite well internally, but failed, in its context, to win acceptance in the Protestant part of the population.

Opposition

The United Ulster Unionist Council remains flatly opposed to any such arrangement. It is important to understand the basis of their opposition, which is just as crude a struggle for exclusive power. Northern Ireland is afflicted by the deepest of all political flaws, divided allegiance. Not every Roman Catholic there feels that he "really" belongs to, or would prefer to belong to, an all-Ireland republic. Far from it. But their sympathies, cultural conditioning, and sense of community render them, in potentiality, instrumental to the purposes of those who are actively seized of the heady and bloody tradition of Irish nationalism. Much the same, *mutatis mutandis*, can be said of the Ulster Protestants.

"Power sharing" has come to be seen, in the dominant political perceptions of Ulster Protestants, as a device for institutionalizing this division of allegiance and so weakening the state. Two things in particular

have contributed to that appreciation. One was the yoking, under the Sunningdale agreement, of "power sharing" with a Council of Ireland; for the latter was felt to give direct expression to the southward tug to which Northern Ireland is exposed. Ideas about a Council of Ireland have gone out of limelight since last May, and that is one development which is favourable to the convention.

The other thing that has excited unionist suspicion about "power sharing" is the fact that it is the product of the thinking of the main British political parties neither of which has been wholly unambiguous about the allegiance of Ulster. Both parties have given Ulster's British connection full constitutional support so long as that accords with the wishes of the majority of the people there. But both have withheld full moral support for the union. They have shown little sign of valuing the attachment; rather, indifference or a preference for release from it.

Little progress

There is in this suspicion of "power sharing" both a fear—that the device contains the seed of the dissolution of Northern Ireland as a province of the United Kingdom; and a judgement—that there will be no peace, no settling of submission until it is confirmed unequivocally, unmistakably, and finally that Northern Ireland is an integral part of the United Kingdom, and are not in hypothetical transition towards some new form of Irish state.

Against this, the ideas promoted by Mr Faulkner and the Alliance Party have made little apparent progress. In their assessment, arrangements which would guarantee elected representatives of the Roman Catholic community a part in provincial government at all levels—provided only those representatives concede that the status of Northern Ireland is to be determined by the majority within it, and provided they support the laws and the agencies appointed to enforce them—are the arrangements which would serve best to preserve the union, since they hold some promise of tranquillity. There is little reason to believe that those views will prosper, either at the polls or within the convention, to an extent that would make possible an agreed recommendation for provincial government. But one must not wholly despair of the convention even before it is elected.

DOM OF ACCESS; FREEDOM OF DEBATE

m of the press is not which belongs to those in the press, whether proprietors, managers, journalists, compositors, printers, or workers. The free press belongs to the thought in Britain we have the constitutional of the first amendment of the American Constitution, freedom of the press, which is itself a free constitution, dom of thought.

wever, has one quali- most public rights are by Parliament, but the a scrutineer of public press comes under the of Parliament, and arliament of Govern- freedom of independ- y is lost. Naturally, the freedom of the not on statute but on of publication and access to publication, perfect, but it is rare, is to be supported and statute did not create less we must see that as not take it away.

why the question of the for journalists is so The issue of the closed journalists is different closed shop question other departments work. Freedom of uires that there should ficial barrier to access per publication. Free- eech does not require should be a general or any citizen to work chine room of a news- does require that there a general freedom for n to submit material for a newspaper, and hat material published iting rather than the

person is thought to be suitable. This is what the dispute over Mr Foot's Bill is about. It is the reason that sixty of Britain's leading writers, including many of left-wing views, signed their letter to this week's *Times Literary Supplement*. It is the reason why the resolutions at the NUJ annual conference this week were so disquieting. The NUJ conference overruled the executive—which had taken a more moderate line—and passed resolutions laying it down that a closed shop, to include editors, should be sought as a provision of all future agreements with the employers. The motion also called for the union to insist that non-NUJ journalists should join the NUJ. By a narrow majority the conference opposed any form of press charter to be agreed with the publishers, but rejected a move to ban non-union contributions.

It is of course helpful that the conference should have rejected this last motion, but it is the power rather than the immediate intention to ban non-union contributions which counts. If the power of a closed shop for journalists is once established, the power to ban outside contributors goes with it.

In effect these decisions rule out Lord Houghton's amendment to Mr Foot's Bill, because that was based on the creation of a charter to be agreed between the union and other groups involved in the press. Indeed only a few days ago Mr Ken Morgan, the General Secretary of the NUJ, said that the Houghton amendment should reassure everyone because "it is acceptable to the NUJ". It is a reminder of the shifts of power in any union that we already know that a negotiated charter is not acceptable to the NUJ.

What is left is either to have no safeguards in the Foot Bill,

or the acceptance by the Commons of Lord Goodman's safeguards, already carried in the House of Lords. These safeguards include that editors need not join a union, the right to publish or not publish free from pressure of industrial action, the right for journalists to join the union of their choice, the right for them not to be unreasonably expelled from their union. The second safeguard is absolutely vital, but the others are needed to support it.

We are in favour of the Goodman amendments, particularly the principle of free access to publication, because we believe that there is a public interest, and not merely a private newspaper interest, in the freedom of access to the press. Even with the Goodman amendments this matter is bound to be disputed inside journalism, as well as between the NUJ and the publishers. There are certainly many journalists who believe that no union should have the power to determine who can and who cannot publish, or to limit that right to a professional class.

Most journalists do believe that there should be a preference given to professionals in the practical branches of journalism, and almost all newspapers are in fact run on the principle that professional jobs can normally best be done by professional people. The publishers will also have to decide whether for them that this is an issue of principle. We believe for our part that freedom of debate is of the essence of a paper like *The Times*, including the freedom for our readers to dissent from the views of *The Times* in our own columns. That is something which will be preserved, but it should not be preserved only in a few papers, but in all.

Oxford avoidance—and why? Rumour has it that our civil servants have not shone quite as brightly as they expected in the international limelight provided by Brussels—especially in comparison with the carefully-crafted products of the French education system. Does the French Civil Service deliberately go for second best? Precisely what will Britain gain if the Civil Service Commission does so—and succeeds? Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER MEAKIN, *Secretary of British Chambers of Commerce*, 75 Cannon Street, EC4, April 18.

Abortion: getting at the facts

From Lord Houghton of Sowerby

Sir, Mr Ronald Butt brings me into his plan for the whole truth to be heard. The inference to be drawn from his committee is that I am not on his side. I am, I want the truth to be heard; the whole truth, and even what is not the truth. I am impatient for it and have been pressing for a speeding up of the vigorous investigations which Ministers promised would be made into the allegations contained in this book: *Babies for Burning*.

So many people have used these allegations recently as evidence of malpractices that a word of warning about their possible unreliability seemed not to be out of place, even to a select committee.

Mr Ronald Butt made no mention of the Law Committee Report. He will of course be aware of it. The truth in that book is not as dramatic as in the other but if one is looking for the whole truth Mrs Justice Lane's painstaking investigation over two years contains perhaps the more balanced version of it.

HOUGHTON OF SOWERBY, House of Lords, April 24.

From Miss Jill Turner

Sir, Those Ronald Butt refers to as "pro-abortion extremists" in "Let the whole truth be heard" are in fact confident that *Babies for Burning* will not stand up to proper examination and are afraid only that it will not get it. Mr Butt "understands" the Director of Public Prosecutions to be examining certain sections of the book that reveal abuses of a criminal nature. In fact, in answer to a request from Renee Short that the DPP consider for prosecution the authors of the book, the Attorney General said the DPP was "already giving consideration to all aspects of the book *Babies for Burning*". (Hansard, April 9).

Mr Butt refers to the practice of not terminating pregnancies in order that babies can be sold for adoption. Was it not Toby Jessel, a supporter of James White's Bill, who expressed the very low birth standards created an "artificial shortage" of unwanted babies for adoption, and Mrs Helene Hayman (a pro-abortion extremist?) who expressed horror at the suggestion that a woman should go through the trauma of an unwanted pregnancy and childbirth, so that others may adopt the baby? As for the "balanced committee"—balanced to what? Its 15 members include only three who voted against James White's Bill and only four women.

Yours faithfully, JILL TURNER, *New Humanist*, 88 Islington High Street, N1, April 24.

Cut in overseas aid

From Mr Ian Haig
Sir, One aspect of Mr Healey's Budget that deserves the strongest condemnation is its curtailment in the overseas aid programme by £20 million over the next two years.

A basic tenet of Government policy is the emphasis placed on programmes aimed at assisting those who are poor, and it is difficult to follow that the aid programme which is a manifestation of this policy aimed at helping the very poorest people in the world should be the very last public programme to be cut.

Apologists, who suggest that the cut is a small one within the totality of the aid programme and minuscule in relation to total public expenditure, miss the point. For, if the Government's avowed intention is to expand the aid programme, then any backsliding from this commitment in a programme as small as ours can be taken as a token of its lack of concern for the poor majority in the world.

It is a sad reflection on our society's attitudes that the Government should feel itself able to take such measures to curtail the hopes of the very poor.

Yours faithfully, IAN HAIG, *Executive Secretary, World Development Movement*, Bedford Chambers, Covent Garden, WC2, April 21.

From Mr Eric Van Tassel
Sir, Mrs Thatcher has gleefully wanted Mr Healey distributing "equal shares of misery" in a "typical socialist budget".

But it is not past time for Britain to face up to the prospect of some "misery" if the country is to survive at all? Would a "typical budget" then, distribute unequal shares of misery? And if so, it is useful to ask who, under Mrs Thatcher, would suffer most; and it is hard to avoid a cynical answer. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, ERIC VAN TASSEL, *Corpus Christi College, Cambridge*, April 16.

From Mr Tony Smythe
Sir, We are puzzled by the Chancellor's threat made on Wednesday that if some unions persist in demanding a 10% pay rise, the Government will retaliate by slashing social services.

The services are being cut, and facing further cuts in the 1976-77 programme. It would appear to us that the Chancellor is threatening one particularly defenceless group as a means of bringing pressure to bear on others. Are mentally ill and mentally handicapped people to suffer cutbacks to the services they desperately need because Government and the unions are unable to reach agreement? Yours sincerely, TONY SMYTHE, *Director, National Association for Mental Health*, 22 Harley Street, W1, April 24.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Choice of subjects in comprehensives

From Mrs Doreen Hudson

Sir, Two possible solutions have been suggested in my hearing to Mr Burrow's practical problem of Latin and the comprehensive school (April 22).

One, favoured by egalitarians, is to have a sixth form college in which all the minority subjects could economically be taught. The drawback of this is that two years is not long enough to put in all the subjects which a bright pupil might have acquired in his earlier years, and to study A-level subjects as well.

The other solution—I wish I could say it came from a computerized think-tank—is to gather all the 11 plus pupils in a community who want to study Latin (and, may be, Greek) as part of their education, into one special school. Because of the nature of the subject, they would concentrate on, possibly these could be called grammar schools? Yours faithfully, DWYNSWEN HUDSON, 30 Syke Close, Iwer, Buckinghamshire, April 22.

From Dr R. Perry

Sir, The Black Paper suggestion that unwilling learners should be allowed to leave school at 14 to seek apprenticeships or work may seem at first sight an easy solution to the problem of discipline in our schools. It is not, however, likely to be successful in practice.

Apprentices nowadays are expected to continue their studies in technical colleges, and even when the leaving age was 15 would-be apprentices were usually told to go back to school for another year and to come back when their CSE or O level results were in.

Unwilling learners are unlikely to pass any reputable examination at 14, or to get an apprenticeship at that age. As for work, they are the children who drift into teenage unemployment or at best into dead-end jobs.

The suggestion, in fact, looks like a scheme to transfer the problem pupils of schools to the care of an already overworked probation service. One wonders how much the authors of the Black Paper really know about children, though my letter will not tell Dr Rhodes Boyson anything that he does not know.

Yours faithfully, R. PERRY, *Formerly Headmaster, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire*, April 23.

From Mr G. T. Schwartz

Sir, The letter by the critics of the Black Paper must not be allowed to get away without comment.

I am the parent of a boy in a grammar school who is holding out for its rights. The writers condemn the use of meaningless catch-phrases, yet fall into the same trap. They "struggle for equality of opportunity". Equality with whom? For what? When? Oppor-

tunity for what? To stage a sit-in? Equality is lost by the coincidence of conception and this cannot be eradicated by home environment nor educational systems.

If, as I suspect, they still fight the long out-of-date class structure, then let them go into one of those direct grant schools and look at the children and their parents. In my boy's year at least two-thirds are working-class or lower middle-class whose children by their ability and application passed the selection exam and are now on the way with a one-in-three chance of going to university. What more opportunity does a child need?

By forcing "in true democratic" fashion this school to go comprehensive or to become independent, these children and many others in follow will be deprived of this opportunity. It is justifiable to have special schools for children at the other end of the scale.

Yours faithfully, G. T. SCHWARTZ, 24a Avenue Road, Highgate, N6, April 22.

From Mr Stephen Corrin

Sir, Dr J. W. Burrow (Letters, April 22) can count himself relatively lucky. At the school where I taught modern languages for some 20 years not only was Latin squeezed out but German and Russian as well. Candidates for A level French felt considerably, both in quantity and quality while pupils raising remedial English from zero to over 20.

I could quote similar instances in other London schools. Whatever the merits of comprehensives (and I don't deny there are some), the much vaunted claims by their partisans concerning a widening choice of subjects are obviously far from warranted.

Yours sincerely, STEPHEN CORRIN, 10 Russell Gardens, NW11, April 22.

From Mr Robin A. Hodgkin

Sir, The debate gets sillier when it bores round the word "progressive". A competent teacher will be what outsiders call progressive at one moment and old-fashioned the next.

Consider any effective educational episode—a teacher is coaching a group for O levels, or running an expedition or producing a play. When he is encouraging, trusting, intelligently questioning his pupils, or admiring his own ignorance, then he is siding with the devil of anarchy; if he criticizes some loose language, insists that punctuality is important or gives a punishment, he is in league with Rhodes Boyson.

In 1920, when most schools were very formal, "progressive" meant something; now it does not.

Yours, ROBIN HODGKIN, *University of Oxford Department of Educational Studies*, 15 Northam Gardens, Oxford, April 24.

Referendum issues: cheap food

From Mr Robert Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch and Lymington

Sir, Sir John Winifred (April 24) loses his argument almost before it has started when he states "there will always be cheaper food to be had from those parts of the world where climate or quality or quantity of farm land makes production cheaper". Sir John makes the fundamental error of assuming that the availability of a product at efficient or cheap production thereof, is synonymous with a low selling price.

Is Sir John suggesting that, because Saudi Arabia has lots of oil and can produce it cheaply, that they sell it cheaper on our world markets? Of course not—and why should they? Does he believe that the London Rubber Company, having evolved efficient production methods, sells its products cheaply for the reason? Why, an earth should countries like New Zealand be expected to sell their produce at less than the best price that they can obtain?

The oil crisis should finally have taught people in the western world that nations are entitled to obtain the best price for their products, be they food or oil, in the same way that manufacturing industries will always obtain the best price for their products.

We should all be grateful to Sir John for exposing at a stroke, the fallacy of the anti-market "cheap food" argument.

Yours etc, ROBERT ADLEY, House of Commons, April 24.

Trade in the Community

From Mr Shaun Stewart

Sir, Mr Mikardo was right, even if he exaggerated his case. We presumably all agree that this country depends on exports of manufactured goods for its survival, but it is an uncomfortable fact that our balance of trade with the Six in manufactured goods has moved heavily into deficit since we applied to join the Common Market, from a surplus of £180m in 1970 to a deficit of £1,000m in 1974. Over the same period our surplus with third countries has risen from £1,922m to £2,579m.

The French should have taught Whitehall that deficit countries can drive a hard bargain in trade negotiations and it is difficult to believe that when the chips were down the Six would take any notice of comparisons of the kind which obviously appeal to Sir Con O'Neill and, in a recent speech, Mr Roy Jenkins (who may not of course have realized what traps he was falling into). Trade negotiations are about the real world and it is a brutal fact that we have soon got to take steps to correct the growing imbalance of our trade with the Six. Our tariff on manufactures was generally higher than that of the Six and from the trade point of view it would

Retraining for a new job

From Mr Robert Carr, Conservative MP for Sutton, Chesham

Sir, As a former Employment Secretary, my attention was suddenly caught by your headline: "100,000 a year retraining scheme would combat recession and unemployment" (April 24). What merited this headline was the annual statement of the Manpower Services Commission which made the case for doubling the numbers trained by the Training Services Agency to 100,000 a year.

The clear impression is that the figure of 100,000 is a new and welcome target for training. Welcome, it is. New, it certainly is not.

This very target was set by Mr Heath as Leader of the Opposition as far back as September, 1967, at Abergavenny where he stated pathetically: "The Conservative Party is committed to an unprecedented programme of retraining, 100,000 men and women need to be retrained each year".

In February, 1972 it fell to me as Employment Secretary to publish the Conservative Government's consultative document "Training for the Future". Its target was to train 60,000 to 70,000 a year by 1975 and 100,000 as soon as possible.

This target was ambitious and rightly so, but it was highly practical. And nobody could have done more than Mr Heath to set it and meet it.

The tragedy is that eight years after Mr Heath announced it, three years after the Conservative Government achieved it, and over one year after the Labour Government inherited it, the target of 100,000 is still only being talked about. It is now long overdue.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT CARR, House of Commons, April 24.

Age of magistrates

From Mrs M. C. Morris

Sir, If your correspondents' plea for younger magistrates is to be met, as I believe it should, two changes will have to be considered.

First, as most young magistrates will become old, in order to keep an even flow, a limit of 25-30 years' active service could perhaps be imposed. Secondly, as younger people, because of their jobs, tend to move more frequently than older, it could become more regular practice that justices who have changed practice should be considered for reappointment when they have gained some local experience. At present, interviewing committees are reluctant to recommend people who may move as this is an often a waste of local training facilities.

Yours faithfully, M. C. MORRIS, JP, 11 Uplands Avenue, Radmore, Wolverhampton, April 22.

Price of straw

From Mr Ralph Davis

Sir, The answer to Mr Tredinnick's letter (April 16) asking why barley is cheaper than barley straw is very simple. Last harvest and during many previous harvests great quantities of straw have been burnt. Had even a small proportion of this straw been stored the past winter's food crisis would never have arisen.

Yours faithfully, RALPH DAVIS, Middle Sodrone, St Keyne, Liskeard, Cornwall, April 21.

Post codes

From Mr Kurt Klappholz

Sir, Before the Post Office rushes to reply to Mr Culshaw's letter (The Times, April 22) might I put a supplementary question? When, in Mr Culshaw's words, "outdated post codes" were introduced, the Post Office arrogantly argued that, given the conditions in the United Kingdom, these codes were superior to the all-digits codes adopted everywhere in Europe and in the United States.

Has the Post Office carried out any investigations to discover whether this has turned out to be the case? If not, there is still time to change—after all, the post codes seem to be more ignored than used. Even such public bodies as the Inland Revenue and banks do not always use them. Perhaps, for the reasons given by Mr Culshaw, they are wiser not to be as "dutiful" as he was.

Yours faithfully, KURT KLAPPHOLZ, 21 Cavendish Avenue, Finchley, N3, April 23.

From Mr John R. Warner

Sir, Further to Mr Culshaw's letter (April 22) regarding post codes, I recently telephoned my head postmaster to complain about undelivered mail. I gave my correct postal address, and upon reaching the post code was told "don't bother with that, we don't use those here".

Thanks for telling me, I won't bother, either, in future! Yours faithfully, J. R. WARNER, 273a Pinner Road, Harrow, Middlesex, April 22.

From Mr David Pearson

Sir, The Post Office itself obviously agrees with Mr John Culshaw (April 22). I cannot find a single instance in the entire London telephone directory where postal codes are indicated.

Yours faithfully, DAVID PEARSON, 12 Old Vicarage Gardens, Markyate, Hertfordshire, April 22.

vice recruits

Christopher Meakin

re really supposed to be at about half the success to the Civil Service? Thursday, April 27. One's at the wayward logic of service Commission in its attempts to avoid Oxtbridge

ck of the country's school le sort the Civil Service look for anyway—choose Oxford or Cambridge, and if them get in, then only liberate system of trading the Civil Service avoid

recruiting them when they graduate. The only way to avoid the Oxtbridge set would be to find some way of ensuring that the contribution made by those two universities to the education of their self-selecting intake was in fact negative. Of course, even that would not work. The school leavers who want to go into the Civil Service, reckon they will be suited to it, and choose their educational stepping stones accordingly, would simply look around for another university—and no doubt in due course the Civil Service Commission would find itself trying to avoid the output of that alma mater.

In fact, what, precisely, is trying to fool whom with this calculated

Equities turn down but close above the worst

stock market had to contend yesterday with the restoration of dealings in BLMC issues and a substantial rights issue. Major indices turned lower after Sun Alliance had confirmed market rumours with the announcement that it was raising £37.5m by way of rights to share-soldiers. The market staged a recovery later, although trading was thin.

The FT index, down to 328.2 at noon, ended the session at 332.6, a net fall of 4.7. The past week has seen market indices modestly turned up to close with net losses of around 1.4 per cent.

Gilts, affected by the weakness of sterling, fell back throughout the week.

Investor's week, page 18

Shell Oil registers \$250m debentures

Shell Oil announced in Houston, Texas, that it had filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission a registration covering a \$250m (about £106m) issue of 30-year debentures. It said the offering was expected to be made in mid-May through a group of underwriters managed by Morgan

It follows last week's submission of a 40 per cent pay demand to the Chemical Industries Association on behalf of 60,000 workers in the rest of the British chemical sector.

measures to aid investment in plant and equipment. The council says extra incentives are needed to reverse the rapid drop in capital spending.

Emden for Norway gas

Loading of natural gas from Norway's Ekofisk field to Shell and parts of the Tordis area in the North Sea should take place in Emden, West Germany, the Norwegian Government announced.

VW passes dividend

Volkswagenwerk AG said it would pay no dividend for 1974. This would enable the company to use reserves fully in adapting to the changing sales situation. It paid DM4.50 a share in 1973.

Rank offer success

Rank's Organisation's offering of 20 million A shares has been oversubscribed. N. M. Rothschild & Sons announced last night. The non-voting 25p par value shares were offered at 140p. Basis for acceptance will be announced early next week.

Air travel licences

The Civil Aviation Authority has granted air travel organizer licences for the period ending March 31, 1976, to: Air Southdown, Crawford Ferry Travel, Dulwich Travel, Highway Holidays, Kayak Tours, Magna Carta (General

the Hamburg base metal smelting group, in respect of its 14 metals, steel and tin smelting in Malaysia, Nigeria

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NOT A CAPITAL INVESTMENT 63/181

BY MARGARET STONE

Angers in the changing attitude investment

of drawing the... your employer's... depends in the... success of the... sible for investing... his may mean an... manager or profes... sion adviser, an... trust or an insur...

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from this sort of ection in invest- there has been the balance of the between earnings ment and invest- The investment arge- is, of course, obvious example, affects only private

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It is to many, and rightly so. The need for sople at the moment is reliable and objective action. 'Will I be liable?' To what extent? course of action could I usefully take? Hill Samuel Life have studied the new Transfer Tax in depth, with a view to ing for all those with a potential liability to responsible and skilled advice. We are now arrange for you to have a consultation, with a ed person, on a strictly no commitment basis. If you wish to take advantage of this facility, you please let us know by completing the ed coupon and posting it to us?

annual Life Assurance Limited, (T/26/4/CIT) ver, Croydon CR9 2DR. Tel. 01-886 4355. like to take this opportunity of a consultation to examine the implications of C.T.I. in my personal case.

Mr. A. M. M. I am a resident of the Republic of Ireland. I am a resident of the Republic of Ireland. I am a resident of the Republic of Ireland.

My total assets currently to be above £50,000/below £50,000. I am a resident of the Republic of Ireland. I am a resident of the Republic of Ireland. I am a resident of the Republic of Ireland.

This form is not applicable to residents of the Republic of Ireland. HILL SAMUEL LIFE ASSURANCE LIMITED

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

J Hepworth exceeds market hopes with interim jump of 19 pc

In the light of an earlier board statement that first half turnover of J. Hepworth & Sons, the Leeds-based multiple tailors, was bounding along, the market was looking for a first half taxable profit of about £2m. In the event, the actual figure was £2.24m, showing an increase of 19.2 per cent on last year's first half of £1.88m. This was achieved from sales showing a 32 per cent gain from £12.7m to over £16.7m. The interim term record, the board say, although higher unit sales improved turnover in real terms, the effects of inflation a major contributor to the increase in turnover. Current pending cost increases partially offset the benefit at the trading profit level.

Lyle Shipping advances despite hard times

Although taxable profits of Lyle Shipping are ahead from £2.07m to £2.19m, this is less favourable than was expected. This is because two ships were laid up for long periods, while costs increased so that short-term contracts fell victim to inflation. The engineering subsidiary also suffered from high costs and produced lower second-half profits. In spite of all this, the figures continue the rising trend of the previous years, so that the dividend is raised from 4.55p to 5.57p gross. Turnover increased from £7.93m to £9.62m. The policy of taking forward business has secured business for about half the fleet for the next 12 months, but for the rest, sufficient gaps exist in forward commitments to cause concern in the short term. Beyond this period, the board remains confident.

Countryside Props first half loss

In line with policy, the board of Countryside Properties have taken steps to maintain cash flow, reduce borrowings and improve liquidity, but while this is achieving its objectives, margins have been eroded through increased costs and high interest rates and in some cases the need to reduce selling prices to meet market conditions. With the need also to provide £793,000 against land and work-in-progress, the group incurred a pre-tax loss of £267,000 for the first half to December 31 against a profit of £358,000 and are not paying an interim dividend. Bank loans which stood at £8.9m in mid-1974 have since been cut by over £2m and at the same time the group's finance facilities remain intact.

Siemssen margins squeezed

Compared with a forecast of "not less than £400,000", taxable profits of Siemssen Hunter, the tobacco and educational publishing group, were £427,000 in the year to December 31, compared with £337,000. Sales expanded in both sectors of the group during 1974, resulting in a 23.8 per cent increase in turnover to £13.6m. However, the continuing high level of inflation inevitably reduced gross margins still further.

Impressive year by R. H. Cole

An impressive 49 per cent rise in profits to £1.42m (over £1m for the first time) comes from R. H. Cole, the Croydon-based chemicals, plastics and electronics group. This includes income from associates up from £22,000 to £109,000 and is out of turnover expanded from £10.3m to £13.2m. As expected the second half was rather slower than the first.

Long & Hambly

Rubber and plastic moulders Long & Hambly suffered a 23 per cent reverse to £129,000 pre-tax over the six months to February 28. But the board says the indicators are that the second half will be "substantially better" than the first. Earnings fell from 1.46p to 1.12p a share but the dividend is held at 0.5p.

Irish bank merger

City of Dublin Bank are making a share offer for the Irish Bank of Commerce. Terms are 27 shares in City of Dublin for every eight of Irish Bank of Commerce Bank.

Receiver for Cox Inds

At the request of Cox Industries, the Nottingham property and construction services group, the National Westminster Bank has appointed Mr Peter Robinson, of Binder Hamlyn Singleton Fabian, as Receiver.

Turnover for year to December 27, 1974, £2.05m (£2.14m). Pre-tax profit £123,349 (£120,988). Final 2.69p (1.84p) making 3.85p (3.67p). Payable June 20.

Stock markets 'Rights' worries unsettle shares

The stock market ended the week with an eventful session which brought the restoration of dealings in BLMC shares and the widely expected rights issue from Sun Alliance. Share prices fell back sharply on profit taking at mid-morning but steadied later. Turnover was well below that of the earlier part of the week and the major institutions appear to be busy enough with the week's pace of fund-raising by major companies.

The FT index closed 4.7 down at 332.6 (after 328.2). Recorded bargains were 11.087.

Prospects for the coming week were mainly in the hands of the market. The market is still fearful of further rights issues. Both Beecham and Lloyds Bank were rumoured yesterday as possible cash raisers.

The announcement of dealings in BLMC issues (loan stocks and shares) came as the market opened. First price for the shares was 81p, against the suspension price of 61p. The prospect of 10p a share was a sharp gain in the first few minutes of the future brought a few buyers in, but turnover was thin. The shares ended at 9p, having touched 9 1/2p.

The rest of the market took little heed of the BLMC revival. The market is still fearful of further rights issues. Both Beecham and Lloyds Bank were rumoured yesterday as possible cash raisers.

Other insurance shares eased, while on the banking pitch, Lloyds Bank dipped to 215p, a net 15p off after rumours that it will be next in line for a rights issue.

Industrial shares steadied from the falls which greeted the Sun Alliance announcement. By the close, ICI at 239p were only 3p off, Courtauld at 109p, only 4p down and Becton at 250p managed a 1p gain.

But shares of GKN weakened to 237p as the market cautiously assessed the implications of its involvement in the United Kingdom motor industry. Hawker Siddeley fell sharply to close 29p, after a 10p rise.

Shares in Glaxo Hedges were lower at 386p (after 370p) when a bearish investment circular from a major stockbroker brought sellers into a market devoid of buyers.

A good feature, however, were shares in National Carborundum, which has a stake in the shipping pitch, shares in Furness Withy, extended a sharp gain scored in late deal-

Gross Cash profit slumps to 10-year low

Taxable profits of Gross Cash Register for the year ended September 30 fell from £886,000 to £274,000—the worst level for 10 years—after interest of £204,000 against £156,000, but nonetheless the board is raising the total dividend payment from 3.3p to 3.72p with a final payment of 2.57p.

Shareholders had been warned to expect the profits downturn. It became necessary during the year to allocate nearly half the group's productive capacity to initiating the production of components for the new electronic sales register. This affected profitability, but the action was taken knowing that profitable trading would be resumed with the availability of the new register.

Since the year-end production of sales registers commenced, and by the autumn sufficient volume will have been reached to ensure a progressively profitable situation for the group.

ICI evidence in US fibres investigation

Imperial Chemical Industries has been requested to provide information to the United States Federal Trade Commission as part of the latter's wide-ranging investigation into the United States synthetic fibres market. This was disclosed yesterday in the prospectus for the group's £100m debenture issue announced earlier this week.

Whatman Reeve Angel

At first sight profits of Whatman Reeve Angel, makers of laboratory supplies, for 1974 have made substantial gains from £103,000 to £246,000, but as the board hasten to point out the figures are not comparable with the 1973 merger with W. & R. Balston last November. Earnings per share are given as 7.08p, against 5.55p, and the total dividend is being raised from 4.1p to 4.62p. Turnover was £4.5m against £1.75m.

Inchcape Kenya sale

Inchcape says it intends to sell its 60 per cent stake in the equity of Kenyan Holdings (Kenya), thus making Mackenzie a locally-controlled company. The cash consideration, part of which will be payable by deferred instalments, represents less than 5 per cent of the net tangible assets of Inchcape which will retain a 40 per cent interest in Mackenzie's equity.

Greenwood & Batley

Greenwood & Batley have paid cash for 29 per cent of Maurice James, the road haulage, paper and sack and waste disposal group. Of the total, 530,000 shares were bought from Messrs L. M. James and C. W. Ward, directors of James Greenwood are confident the investment will prove to be satisfactory.

Wall Street

New York, April 25.—Wall Street stocks closed higher today, though below their best levels of the session. The Dow Jones Industrial average closed at 311.80, up 8.14, it was ahead 711 points at its peak of the session.

Advancing issues outnumbered declines 552 to 513. Volume reached 3,260,000 shares, compared with 3,220,000 yesterday. Oppenheimer and Co., institutional trading department, attributed early buying to the fact that National City Bank's decision to keep its prime rate at 7 1/2 per cent, the reported earlier rumours that the bank would raise its prime on the basis of its forecasts involving short-term interest rates.

Metz and several other analysts acknowledged that continued interest among institutions and other investors in longer term investments in anticipation of economic recovery later in the year propped up the market.

US gold closes mixed

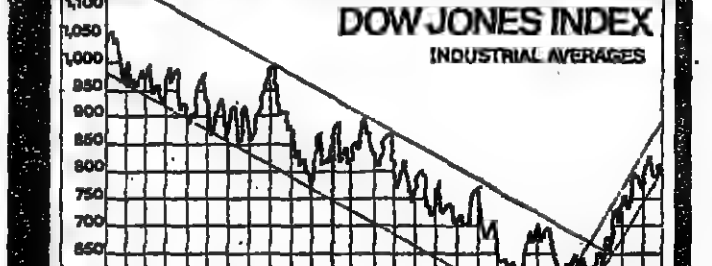
Gold prices were mixed today. All prices were limited to higher levels, which closed 30.00 higher to 30.00. The New York market closed at 30.00, the London market at 30.00, and the Paris market at 30.00.

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